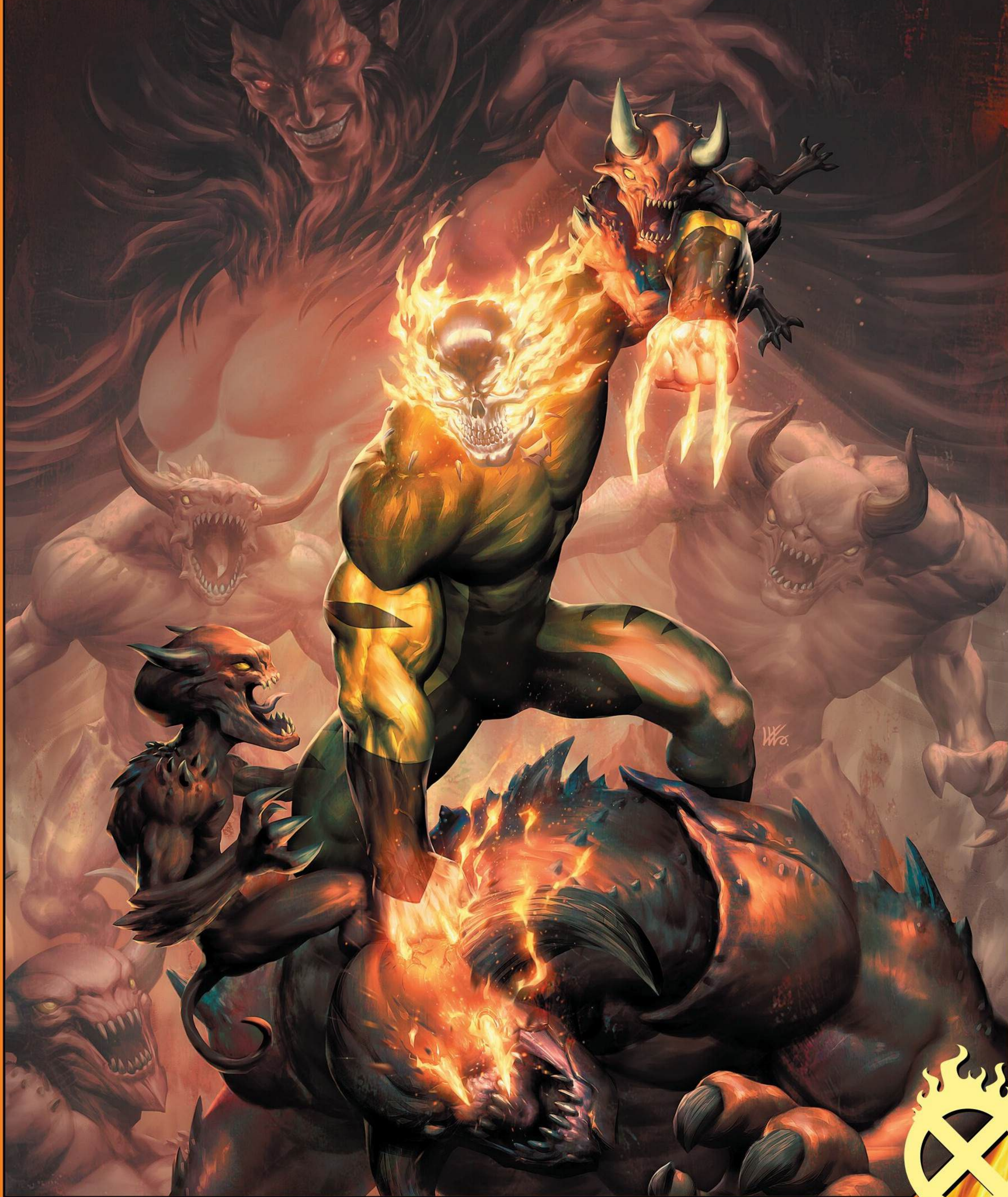


MARVEL

HELLVERINE



HELL HULK UNLEASHED

BENJAMIN PERCY RAFFAELE IENCO BRYAN VALENZA



HELLVERINE VS. THE HELL HULK!

A NEW DEMON SETS FOOT ON EARTH! Is even Hellverine powerful enough to stop its infernal rampage? Be there for the Hell Hulk's first full appearance — and watch it smash its way into the Marvel Universe! As this behemoth brings rage wherever it goes, Hellverine can't stop it alone. Get ready for the return of the Hellfire Warriors as Project Hellfire brings out the big guns! But what is their true goal? And what do they have planned for the Hell Hulk? One thing's for sure: All hell is about to break loose — and when that happens, can Mephisto be far away? The only thing standing between the world and damnation might just be Hellverine!

**COLLECTING HELLVERINE (2024B)
#6-10 — BY BENJAMIN PERCY,
RAFFAELE IENCO AND
BRYAN VALENZA.**

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY**

MARVEL

HELLVERINE



HELL HULK UNLEASHED



Following a globe-trotting mission to stop the machinations of the higher demon **MEPHISTO**, Akihiro was dragged to Hell by the villain, where he wrested full control of Bagra-ghul, claiming the demon and the name of Hellverine for himself. Upon his return to Earth, Akihiro was approached by **DR. SPIVEY** of the U.S. government's Project Hellfire, who informed him that the president had ordered his extraction to stop a new threat-- a gruesome creature known as the **HELL HULK!**



The demon **BAGRA-GHUL** had possessed a young boy, using his body as a vessel to transform into a hellfire-fueled monster that would kill innocents and stitch them into horrific works of art. **WOLVERINE** and **GHOST RIDER** defeated Bagra-ghul, but not before it possessed Wolverine, transforming him as well. Wolverine was able to reject the demon and lock it away. But the experience changed Bagra-ghul. When it escaped its prison, it sought out a new host, one like Wolverine. It found the recently deceased son of Wolverine, **AKIHIRO**, and brought him back to life. Together, they cut through evil in the world with hellfire claws as the...

HELLVERINE

HELL HULK UNLEASHED

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ARTIST

RAFFAELE IENCO

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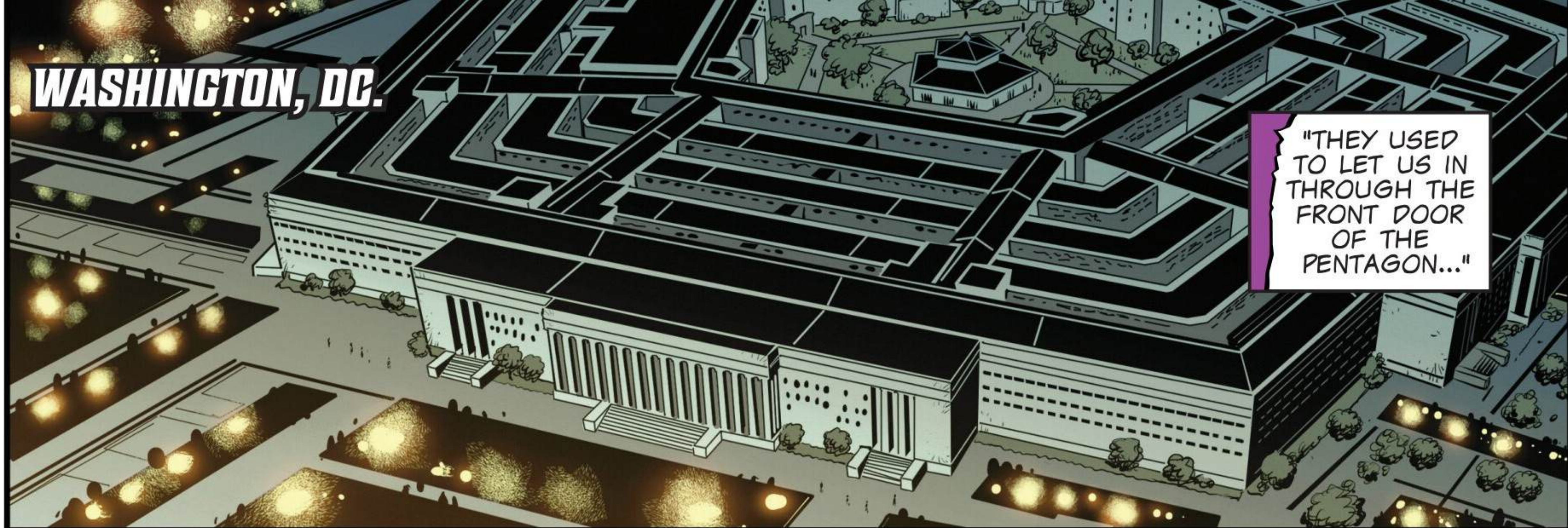
TOM BREVOORT

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#6

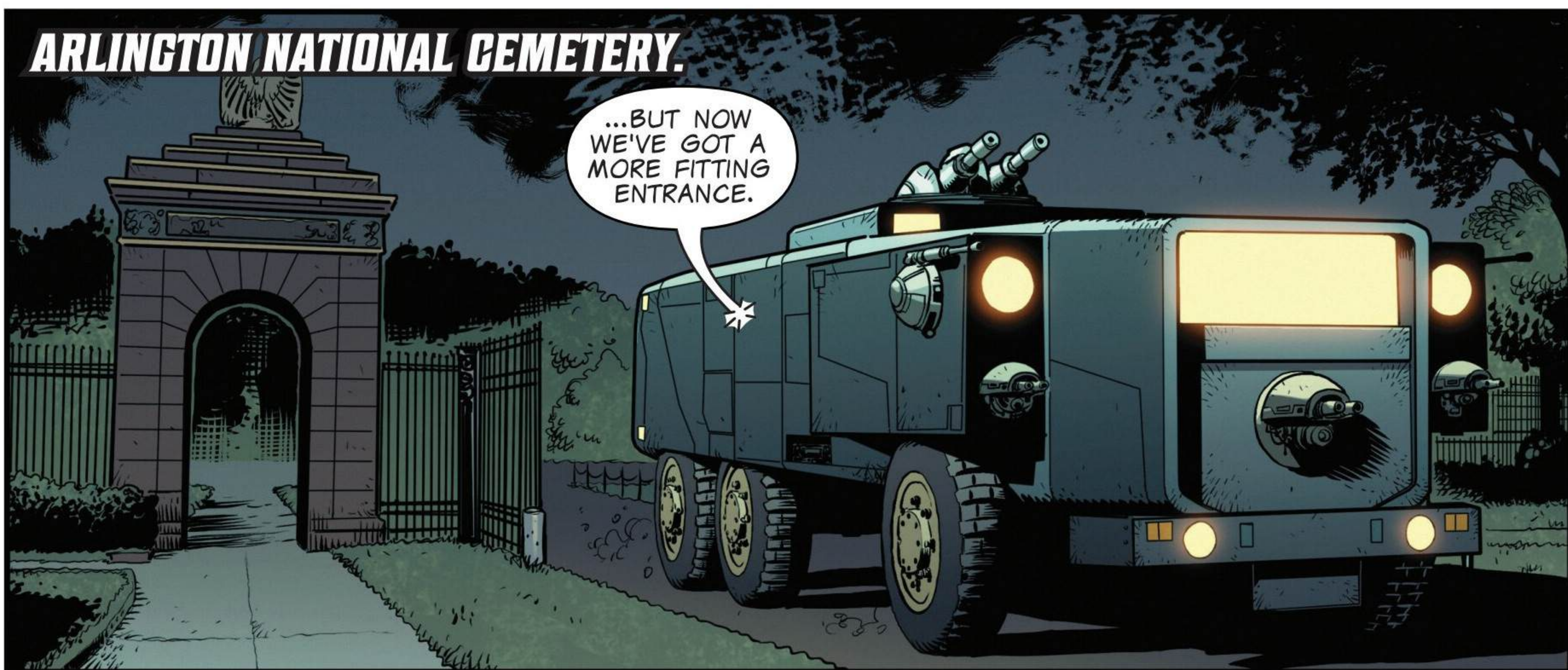


“HELL HULK”



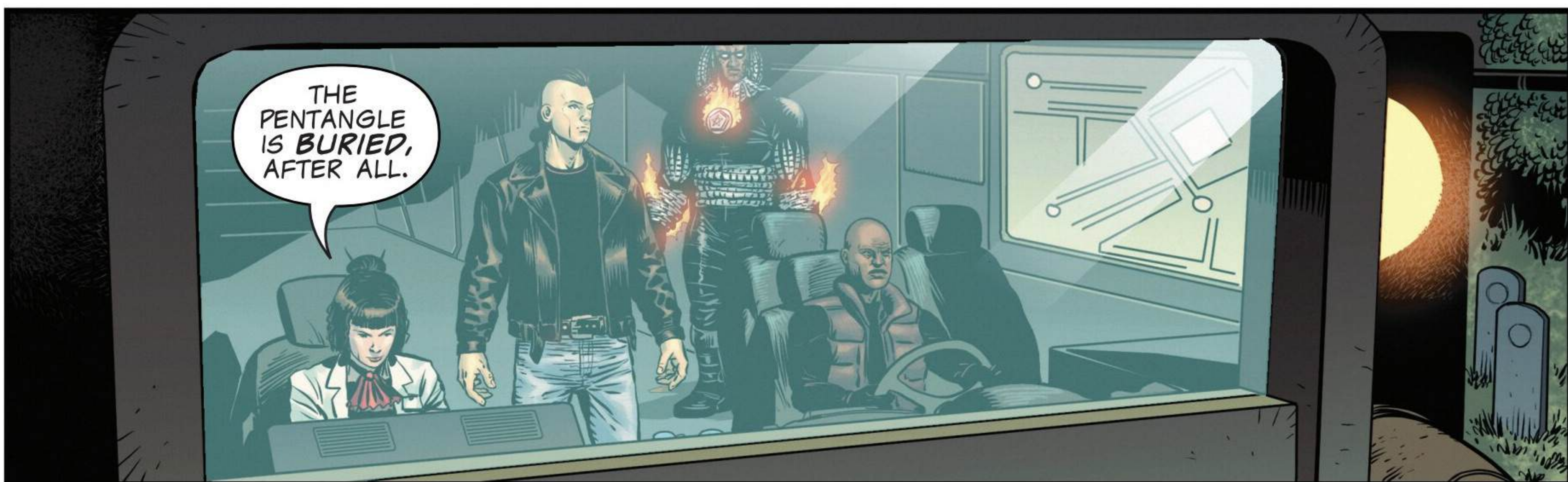
WASHINGTON, DC.

"THEY USED
TO LET US IN
THROUGH THE
FRONT DOOR
OF THE
PENTAGON..."



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

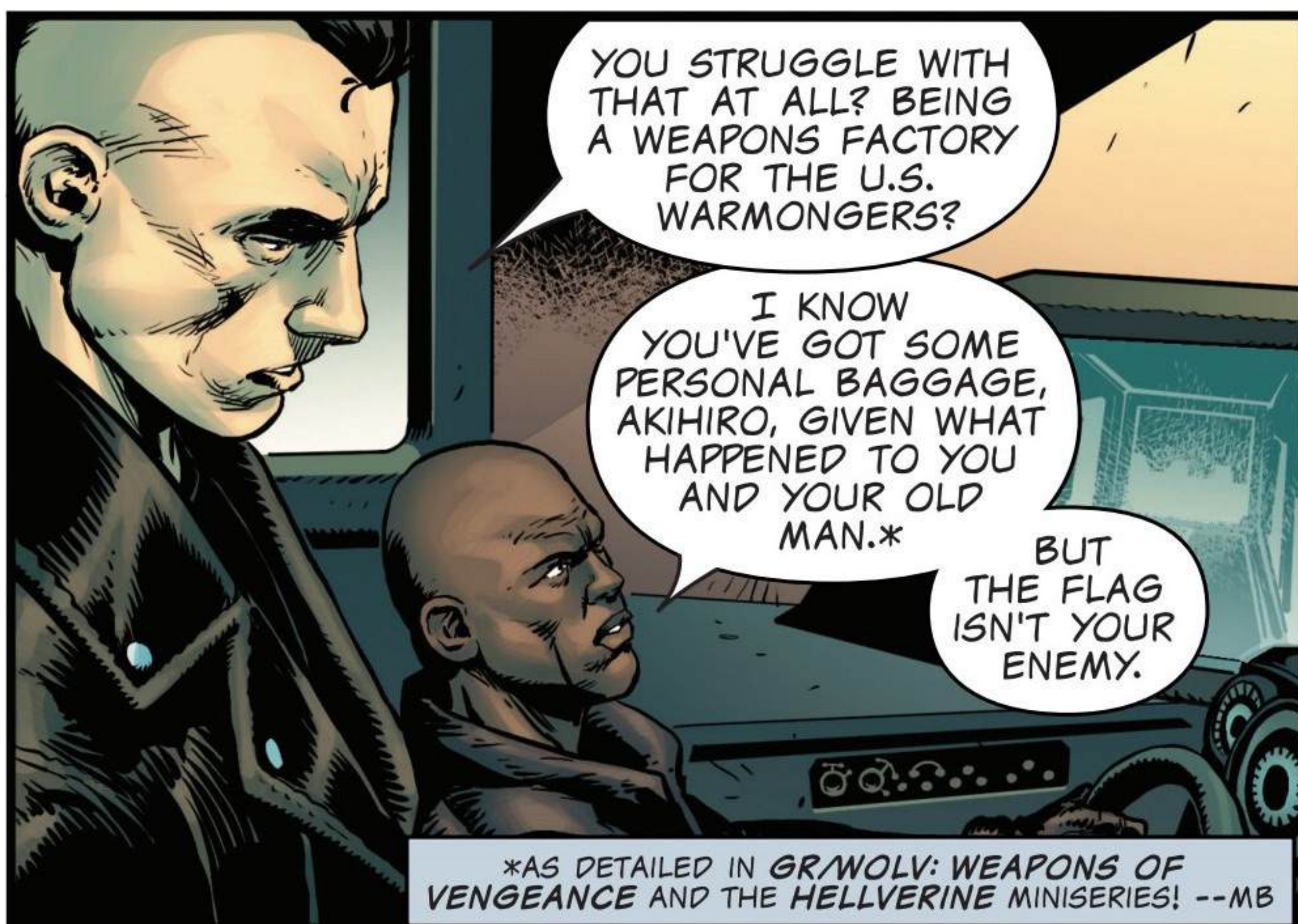
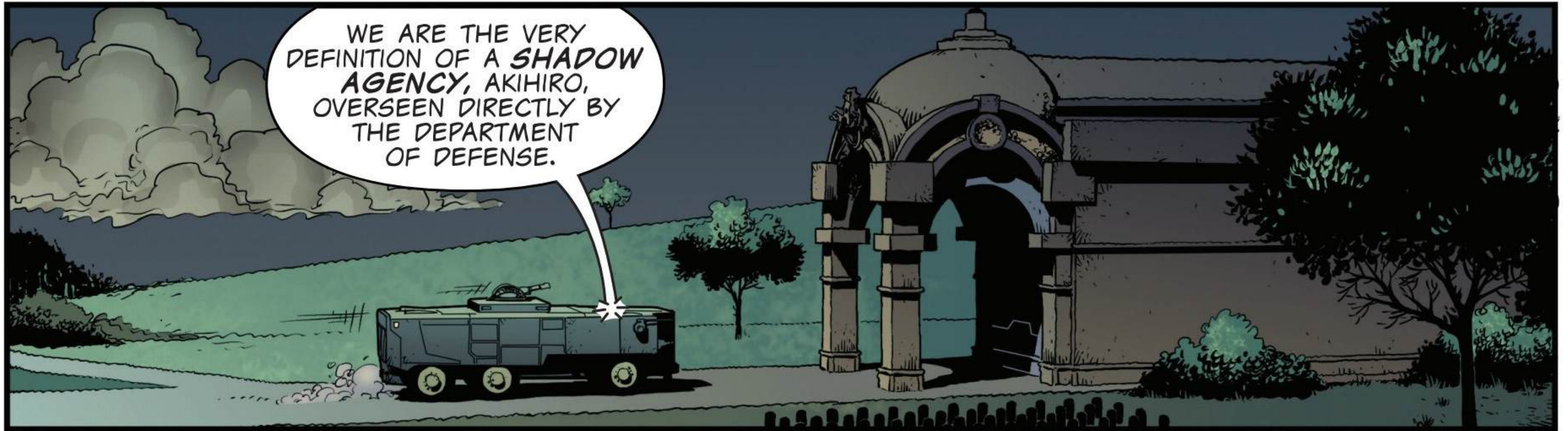
...BUT NOW
WE'VE GOT A
MORE FITTING
ENTRANCE.



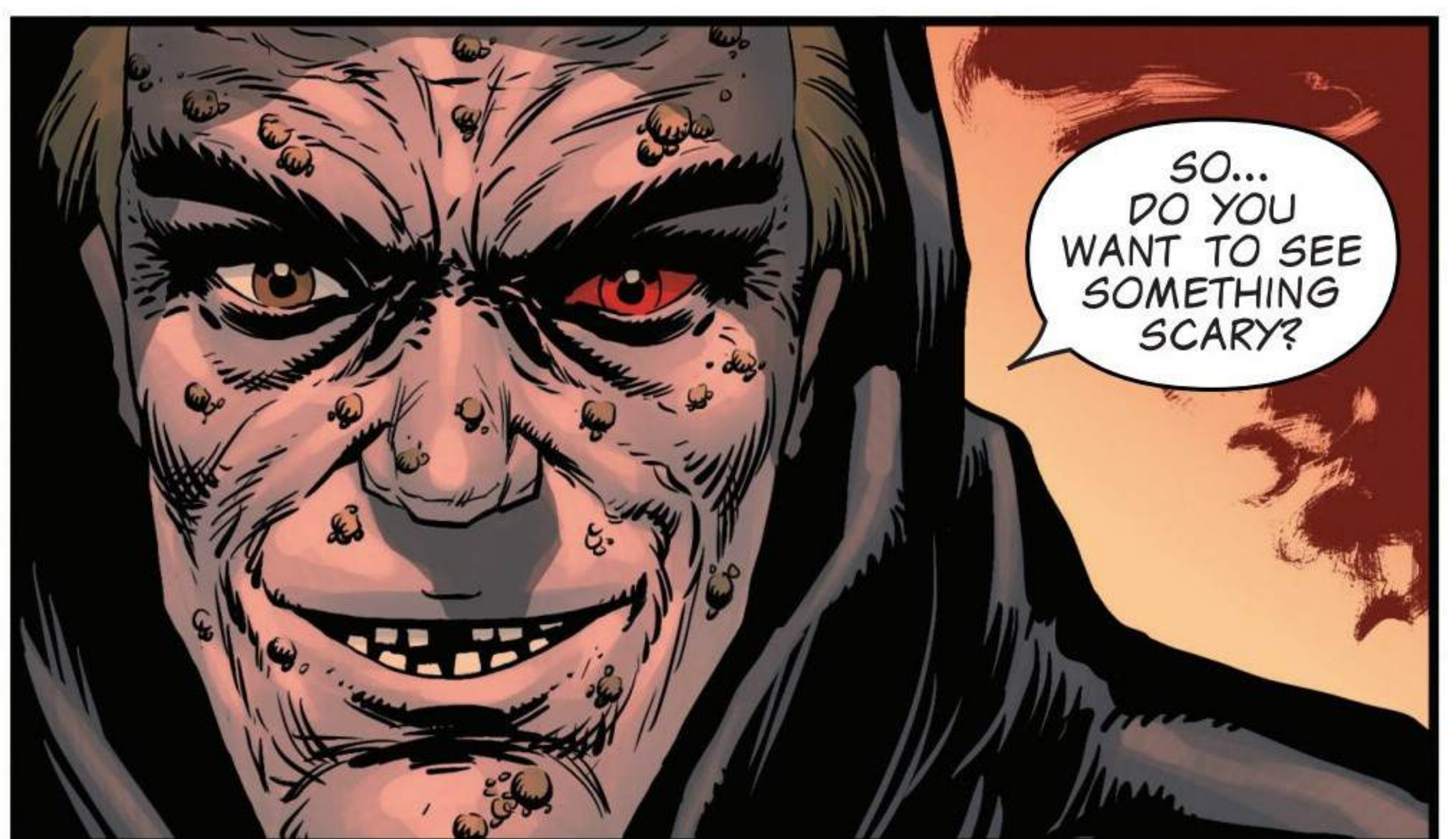
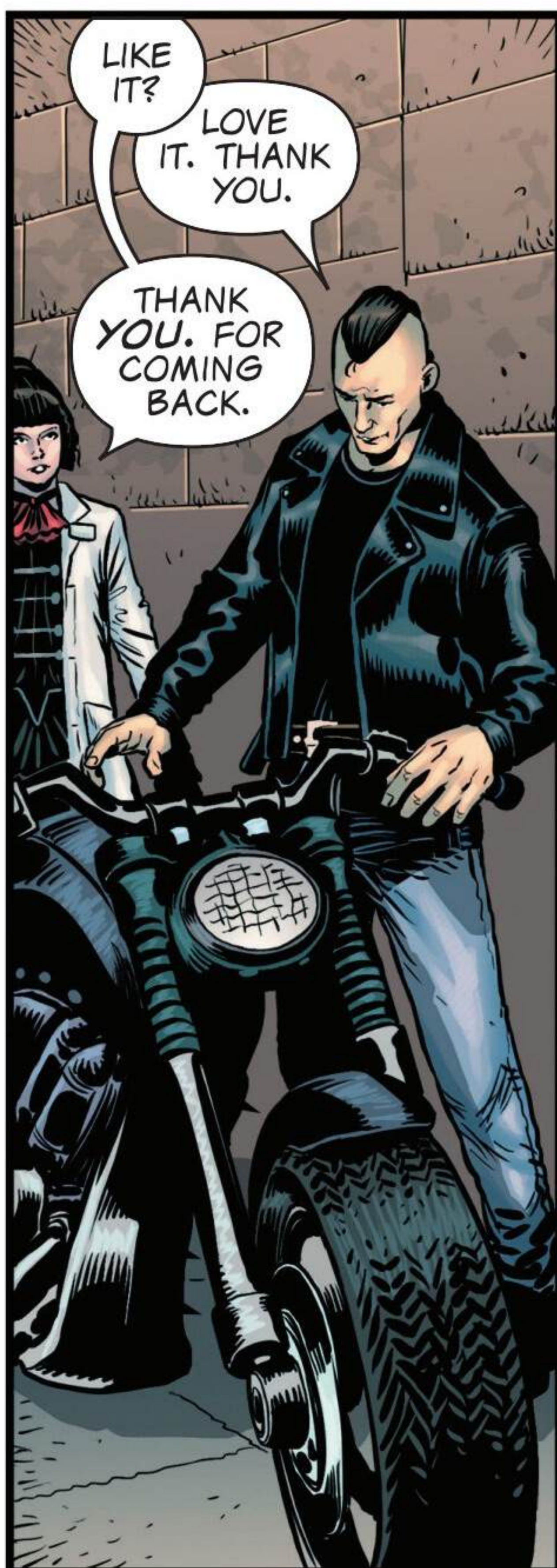
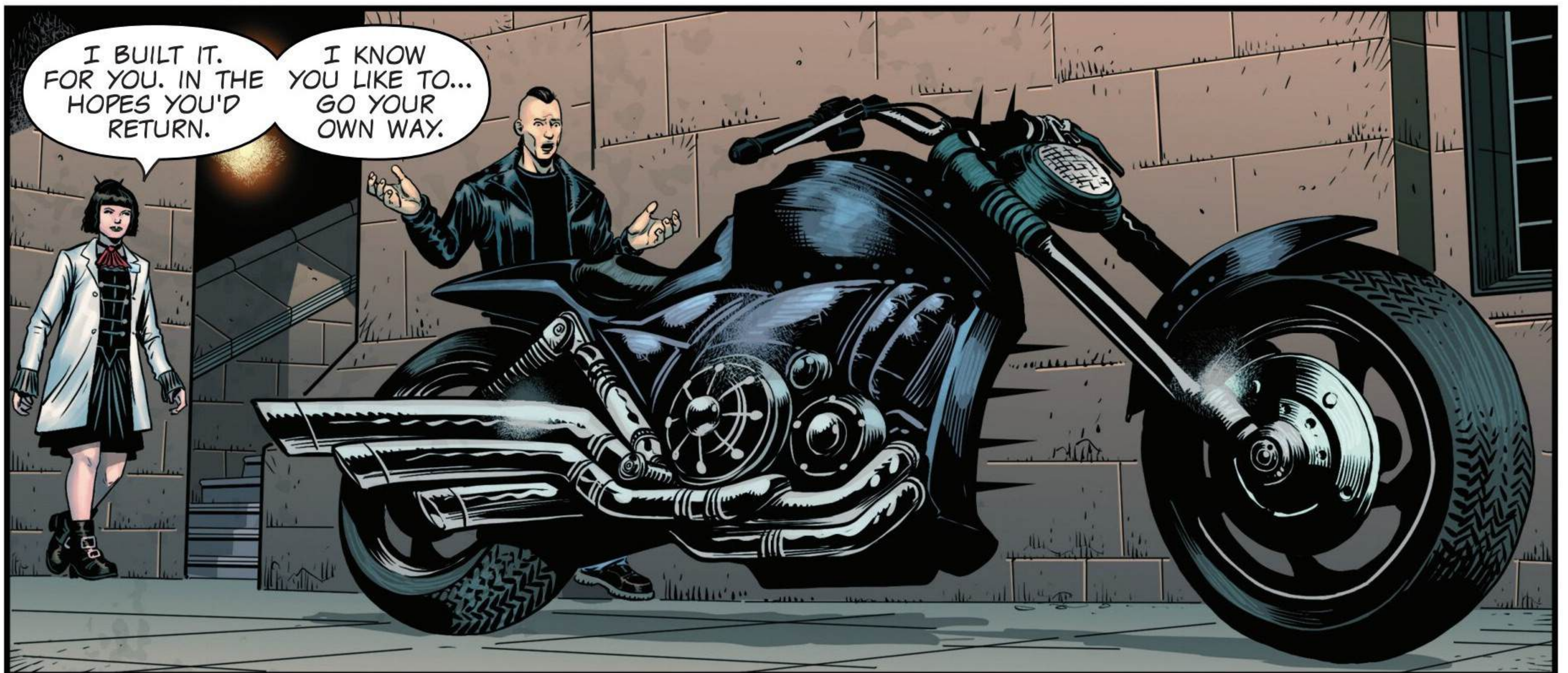
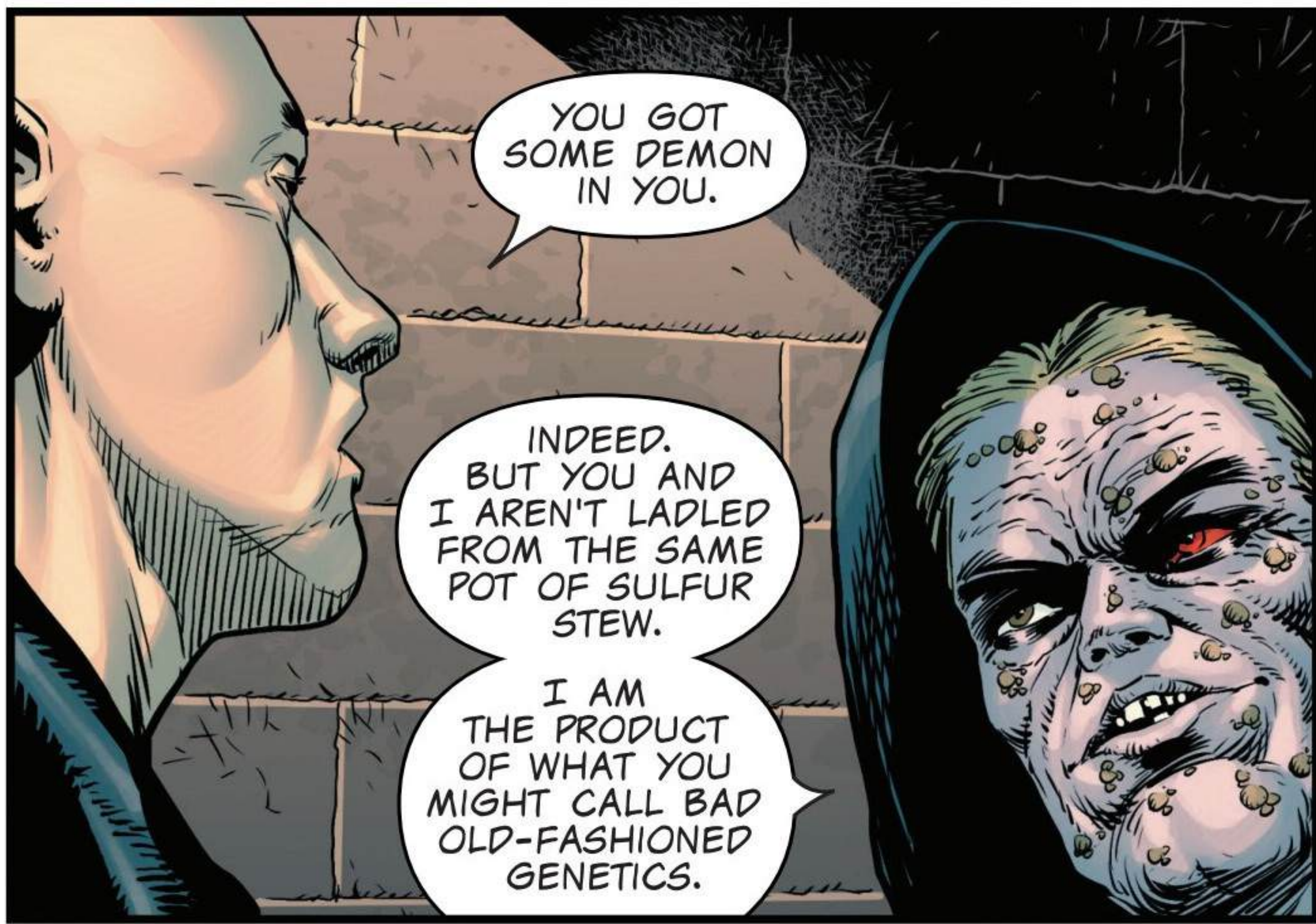
THE
PENTANGLE
IS **BURIED**,
AFTER ALL.



SO IS
OUR WORK AT
**PROJECT
HELLFIRE.**







A comic book panel depicting a man and a hooded figure riding a custom motorcycle through a rocky, wooded landscape. The motorcycle is black with a large headlight and dual exhausts. The man is in the driver's seat, wearing a black jacket and jeans, looking forward with a determined expression. The hooded figure sits behind him, also in a black jacket. The motorcycle is leaving a trail of fire behind it, which is shown as a series of orange and yellow flames along the path. The path is rocky and surrounded by green foliage and trees. In the background, several other motorcycles are visible, some of which are also leaving fire trails. The overall tone is dark and action-oriented.

DR. SPIVEY
CUSTOMIZED
THE BIKE...

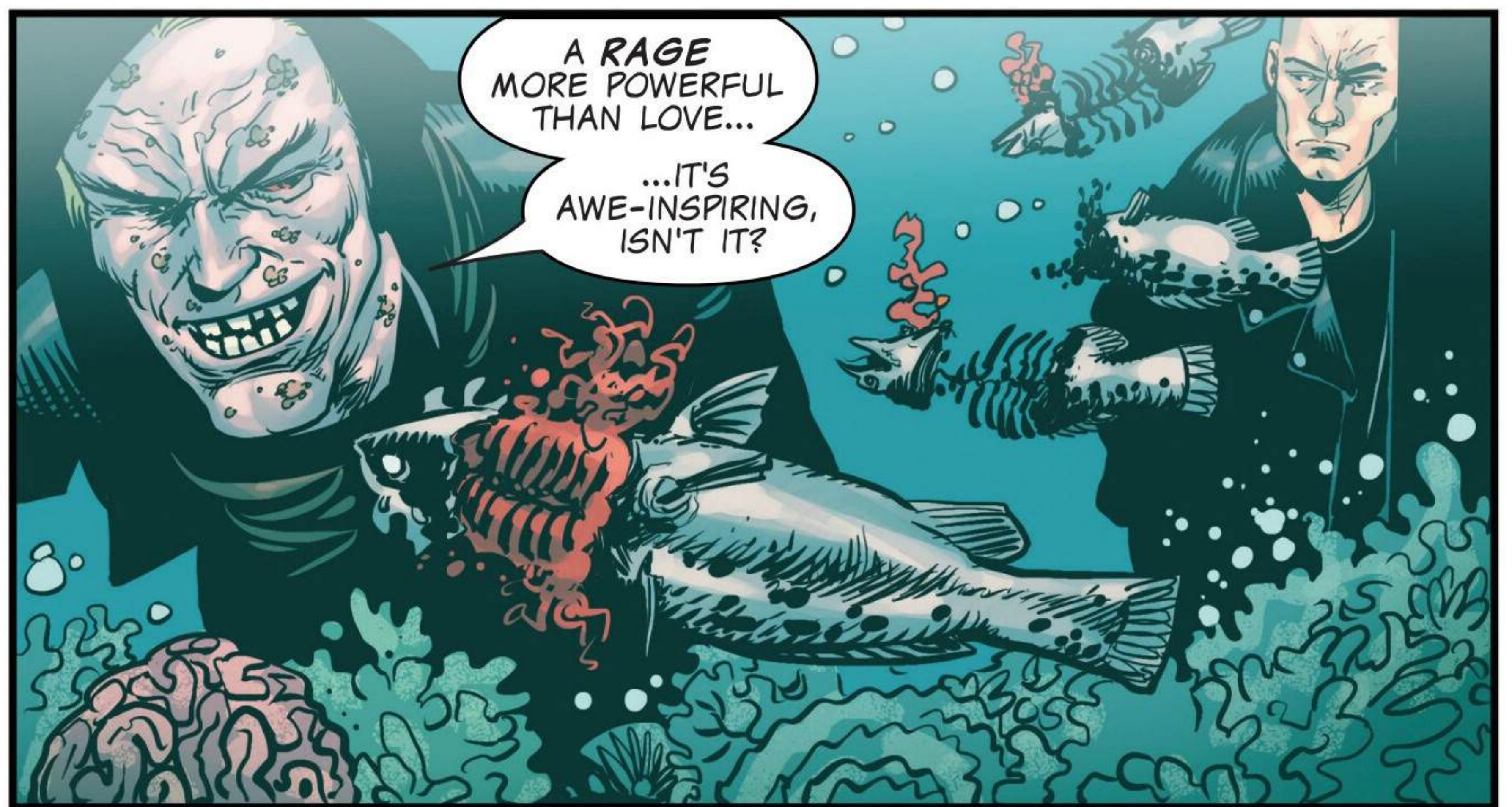
...INCLUDING
HELLFIRE
BOOSTERS.

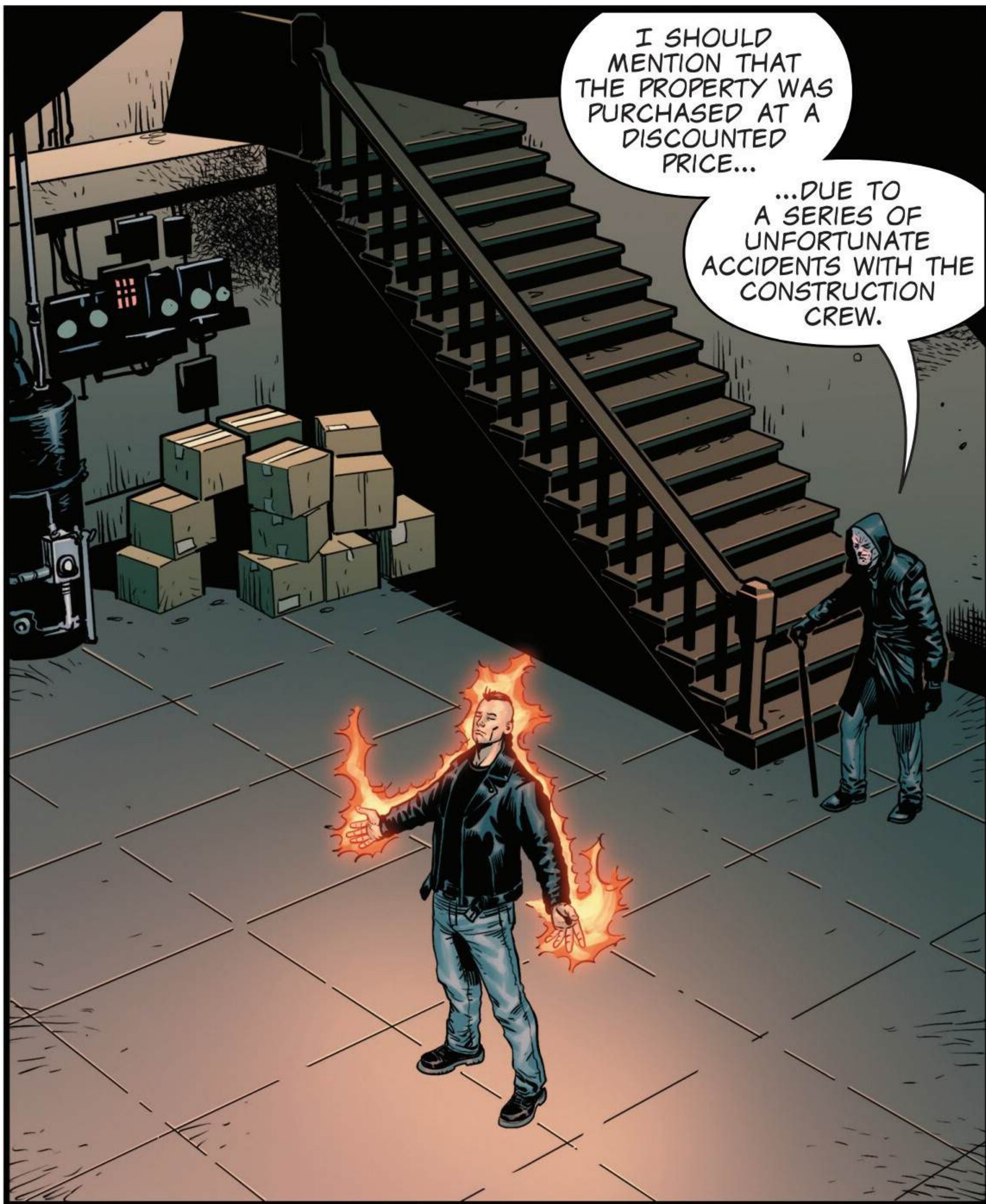
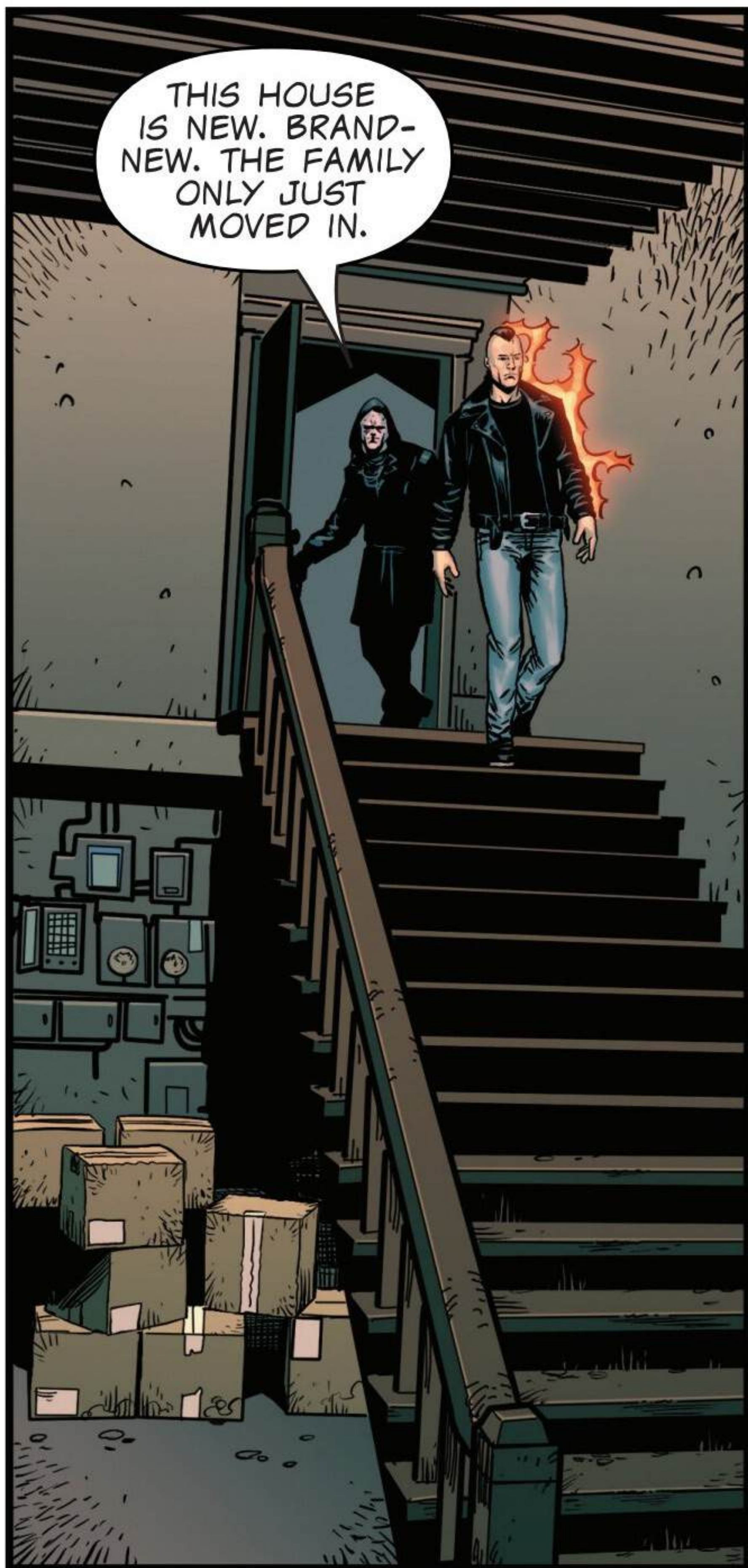
SEVERITH
SEEMS
FRAGILE...

...SO I DON'T
TAKE US
OVER 500.





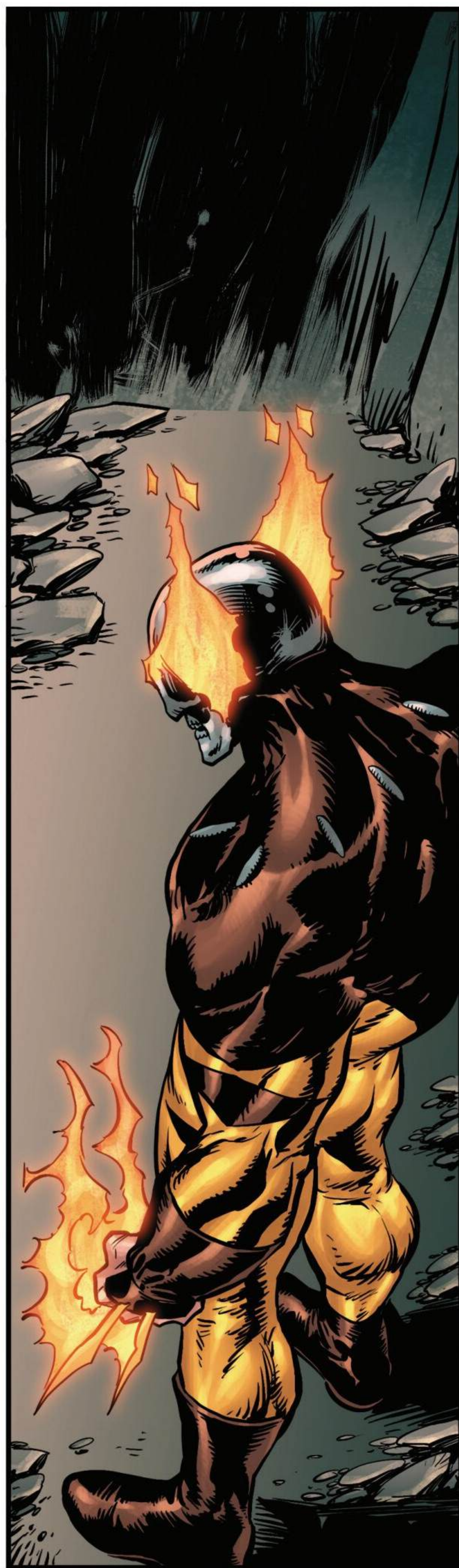
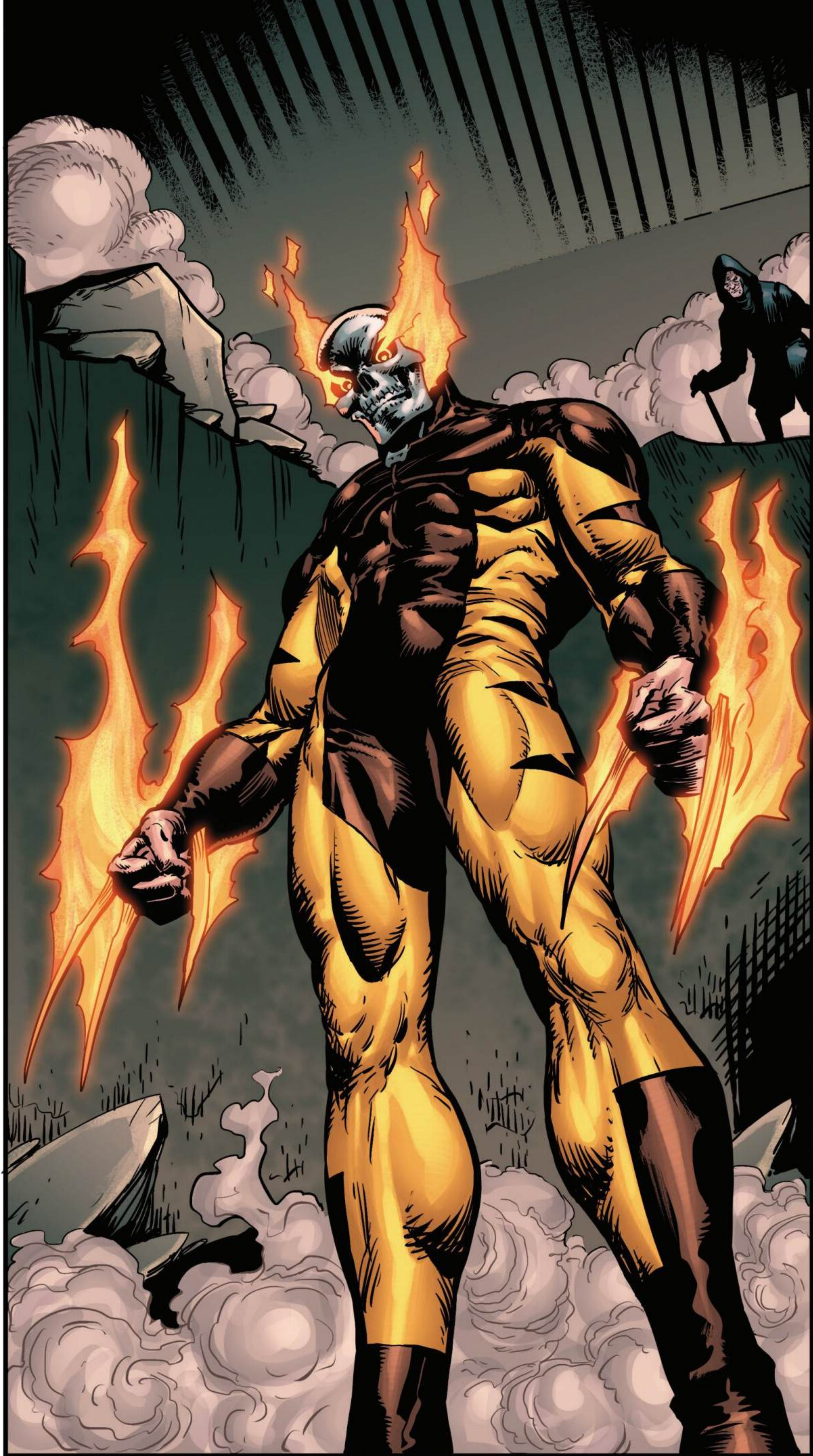


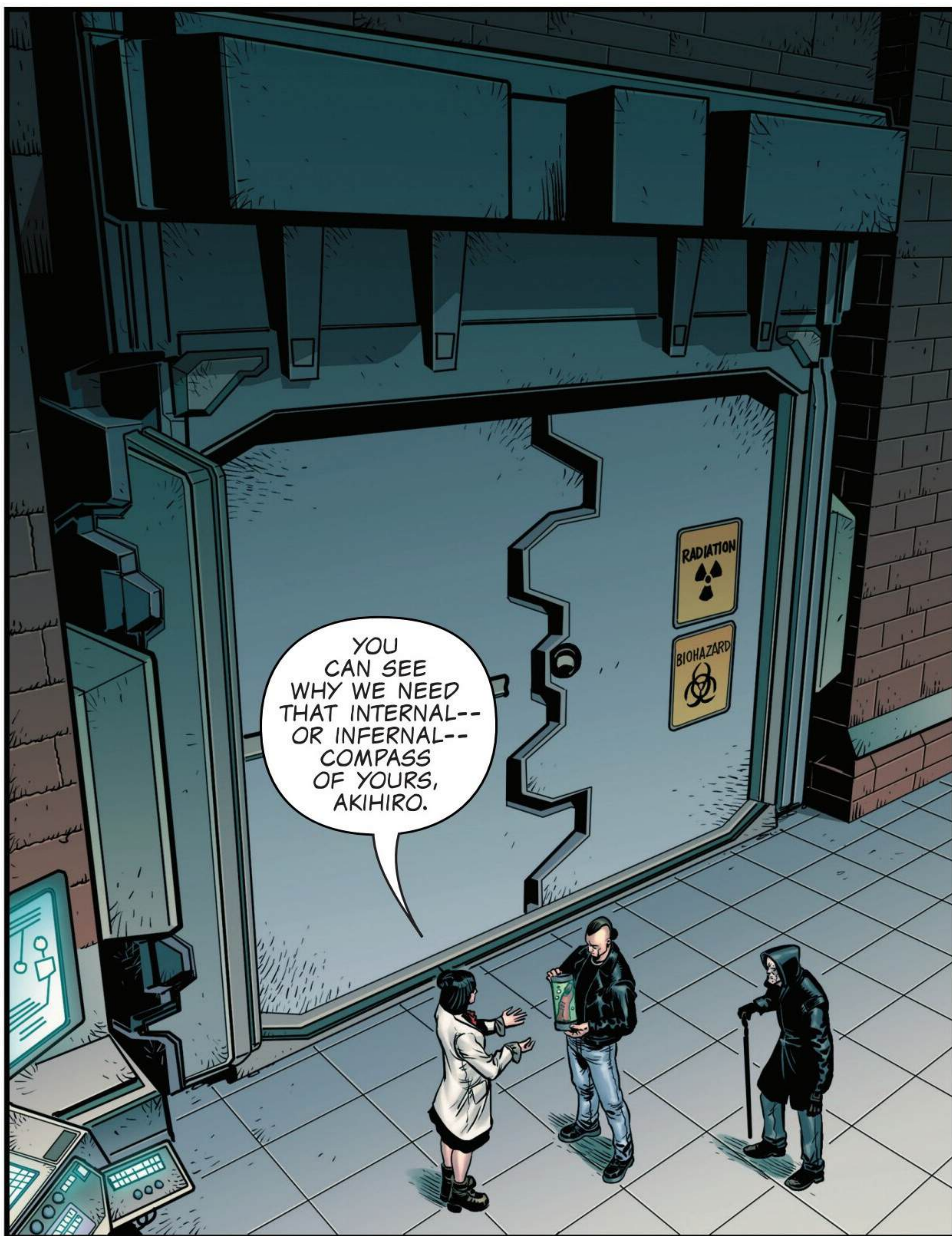
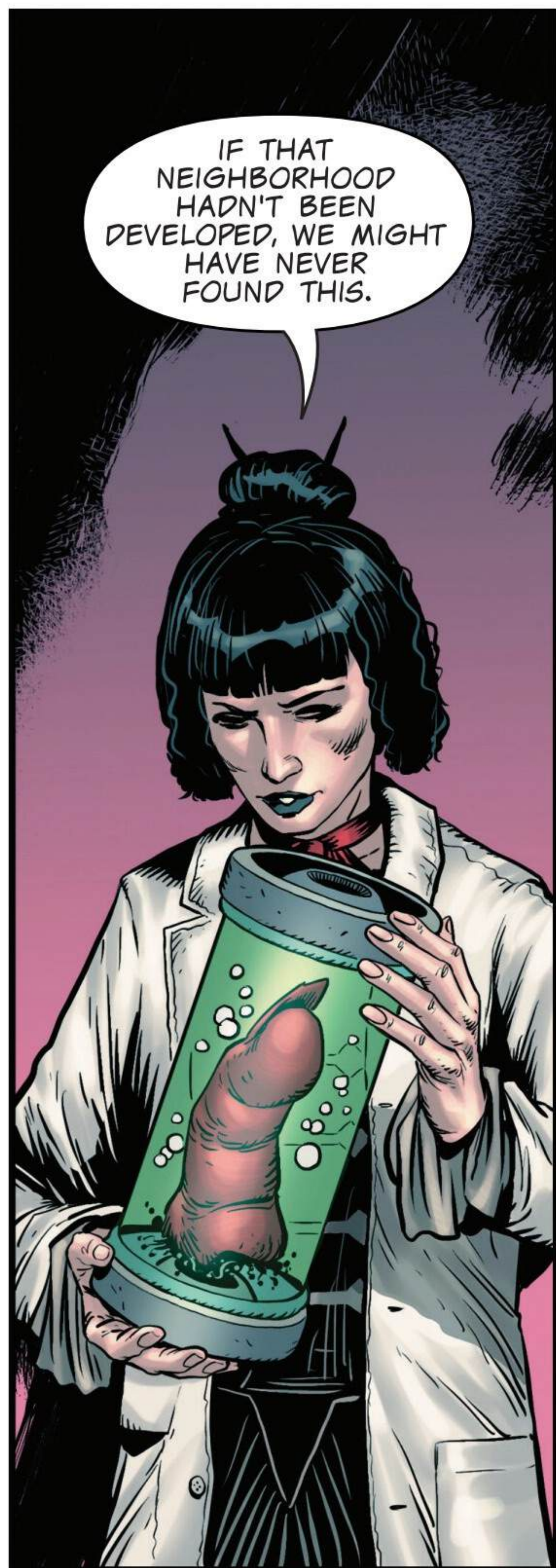




MY INFERNAL SENSE
GOES WILD, AND
I LET BAGRA-GHUL
EMERGE SO THAT WE
BECOME HELLVERINE.
WE NEED HELLFIRE
FOR THIS.





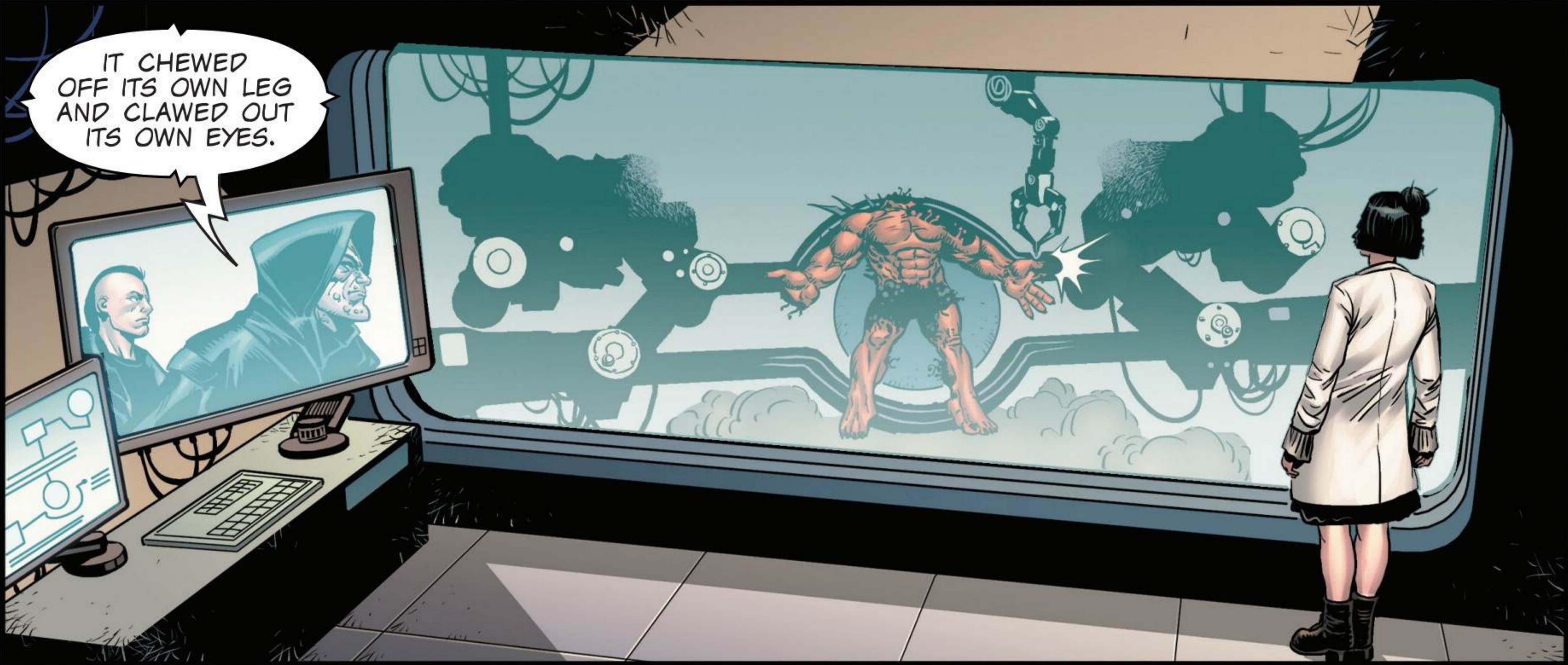




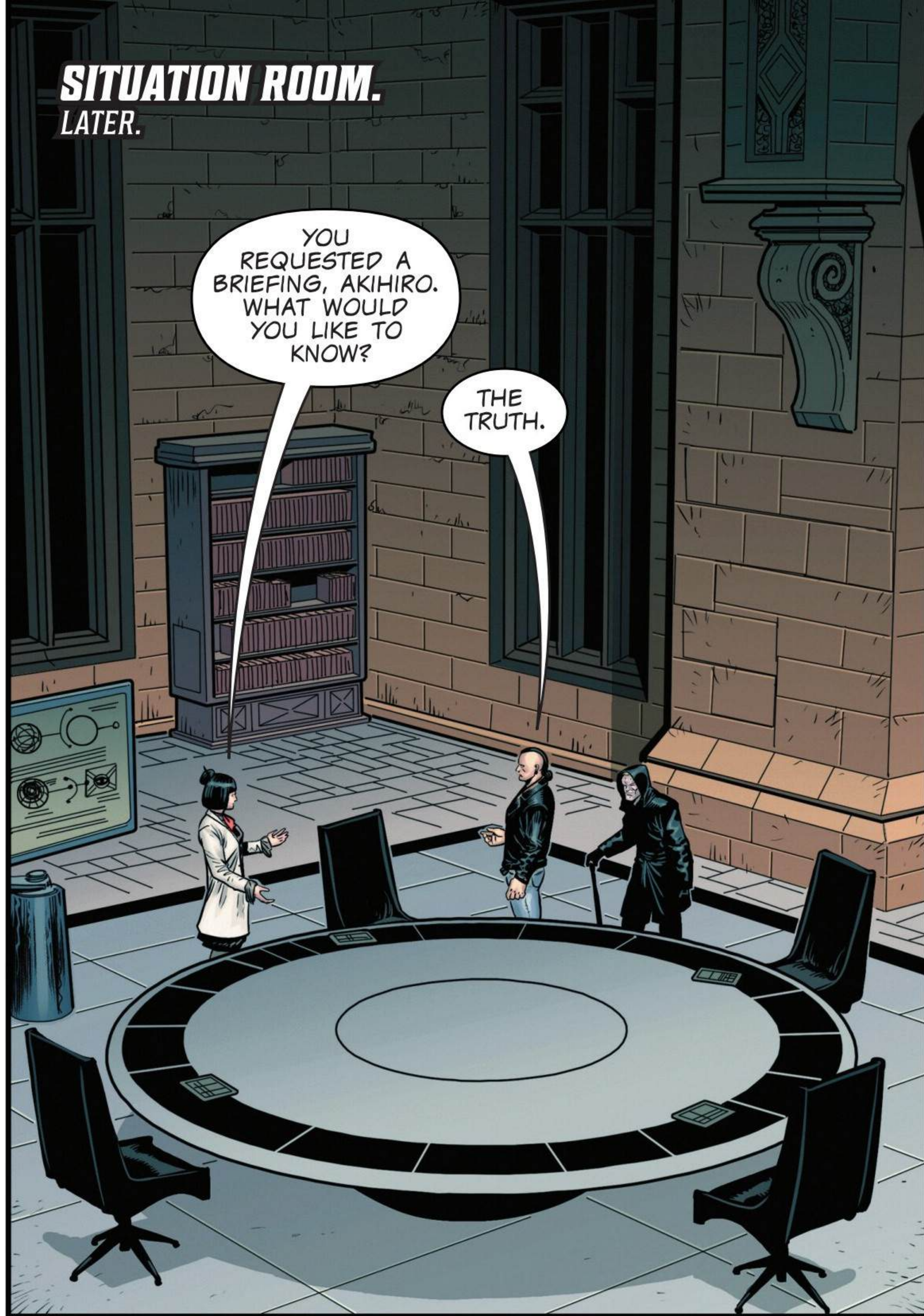
SAY
HELLO...

...TO
HELL
HULK.





SITUATION ROOM.
LATER.



YOU REQUESTED A BRIEFING, AKIHIRO. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

THE TRUTH.



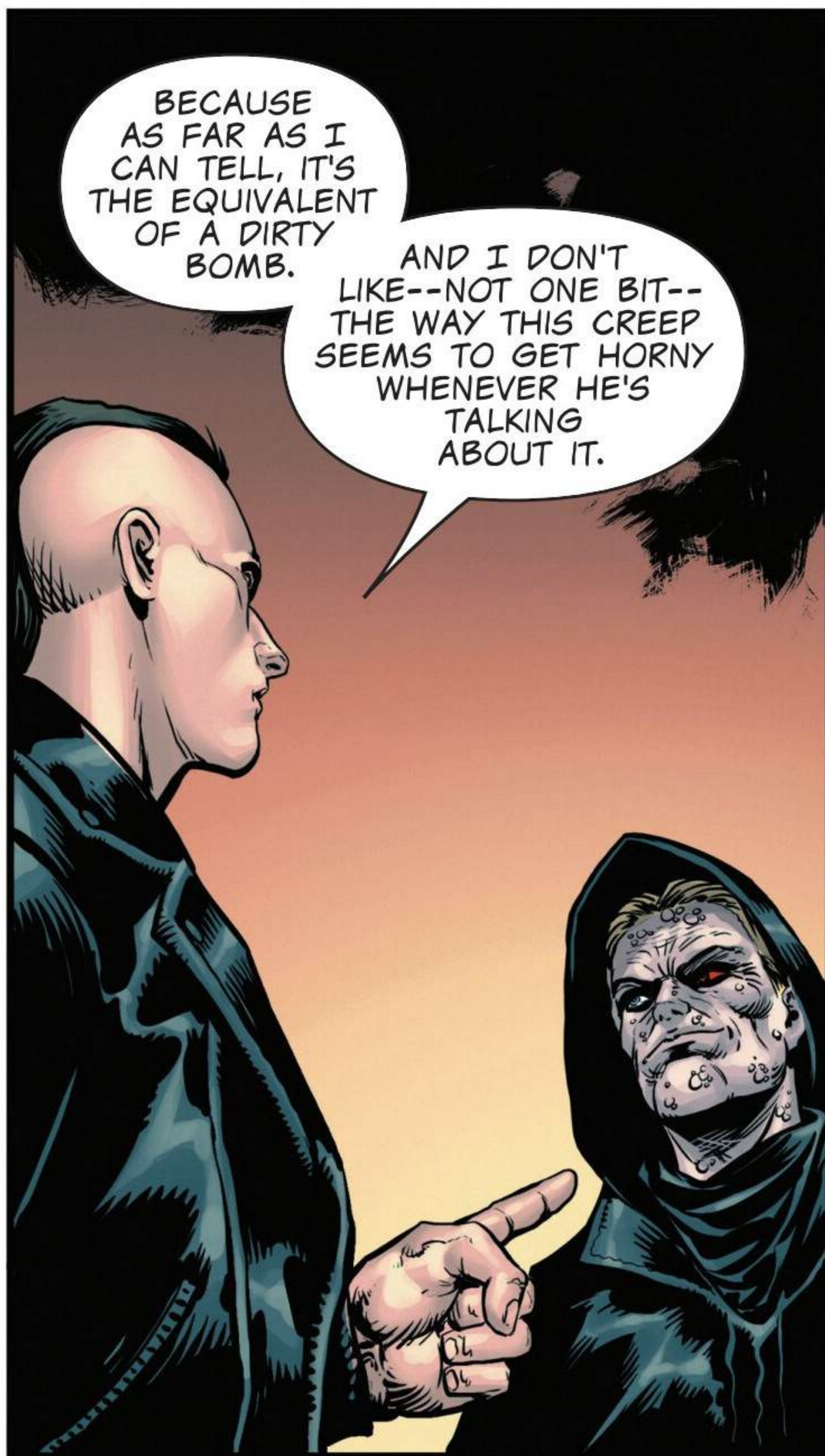
SO MAYBE I HAVE A SHARPER ATTUNEMENT THAT HELPS ME LOCATE THIS... **DEBRIS** BETTER THAN THE REST OF YOU.

BUT CLEARLY YOU'VE BEEN DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT ME.



SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THIS THING?



BECAUSE AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF A DIRTY BOMB.

AND I DON'T LIKE--NOT ONE BIT--THE WAY THIS CREEP SEEMS TO GET HORNY WHENEVER HE'S TALKING ABOUT IT.



VERY WELL.



WE'VE DONE
A SOIL ANALYSIS
ON THE FINGER WE
UNEARTHED.

IT'S
CONSISTENT WITH
OUR OTHER
FINDS.



THE BURIAL
DIRECTLY
PRECEDES THE
EMERGENCE
OF THE
HELLVERINE...

...THE DEMON
NOW NESTED
INSIDE YOU.



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

MAYBE
I'M NOT
THE ONE **YOU**
SHOULD BE
WORRIED
ABOUT.

BAGRA-
GHUL BUILT
ANATOMICAL
CIPHERS AND
MONUMENTS TO
MEPHISTO. ALL OF
THEM INFUSED
WITH HELL
MAGIC.



IF THE DEMON IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE INTERNMENT OF
THE HELL HULK, MAYBE
YOU CAN HELP US
UNDERSTAND THE
INTENTIONS
BEHIND IT.

**DR.
SPIVEY!**



WHAT IS IT,
LT. TOWNSEND?

WE'VE GOT
TROUBLE.



A CRUISE SHIP ON LAKE MICHIGAN CALLED IN A MAYDAY.

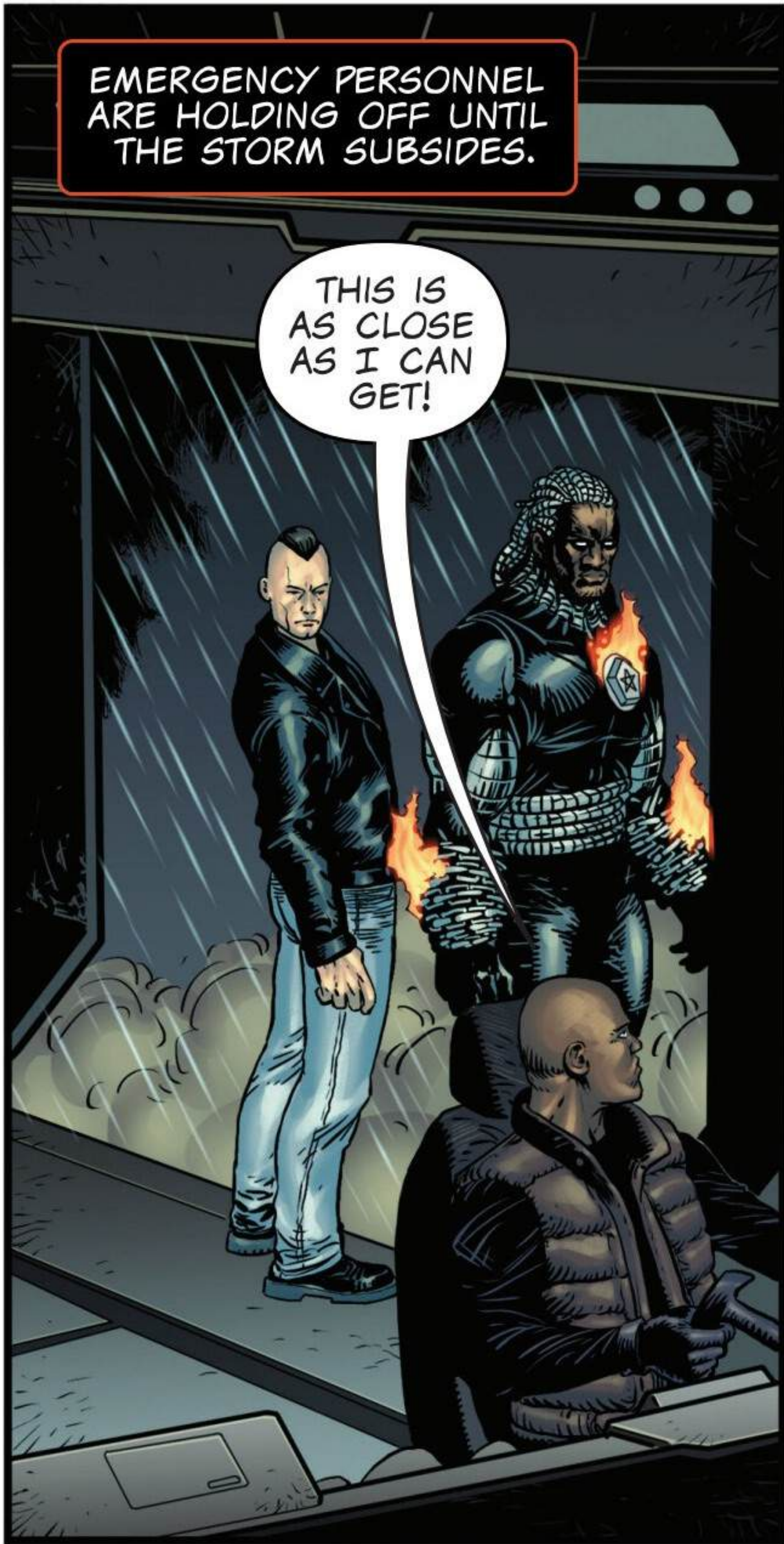
BUT NOT BECAUSE OF THE STORM.



EVERYONE ON BOARD HAD GONE MAD, THE CAPTAIN REPORTED.



THEY WERE TEARING EACH OTHER TO PIECES.

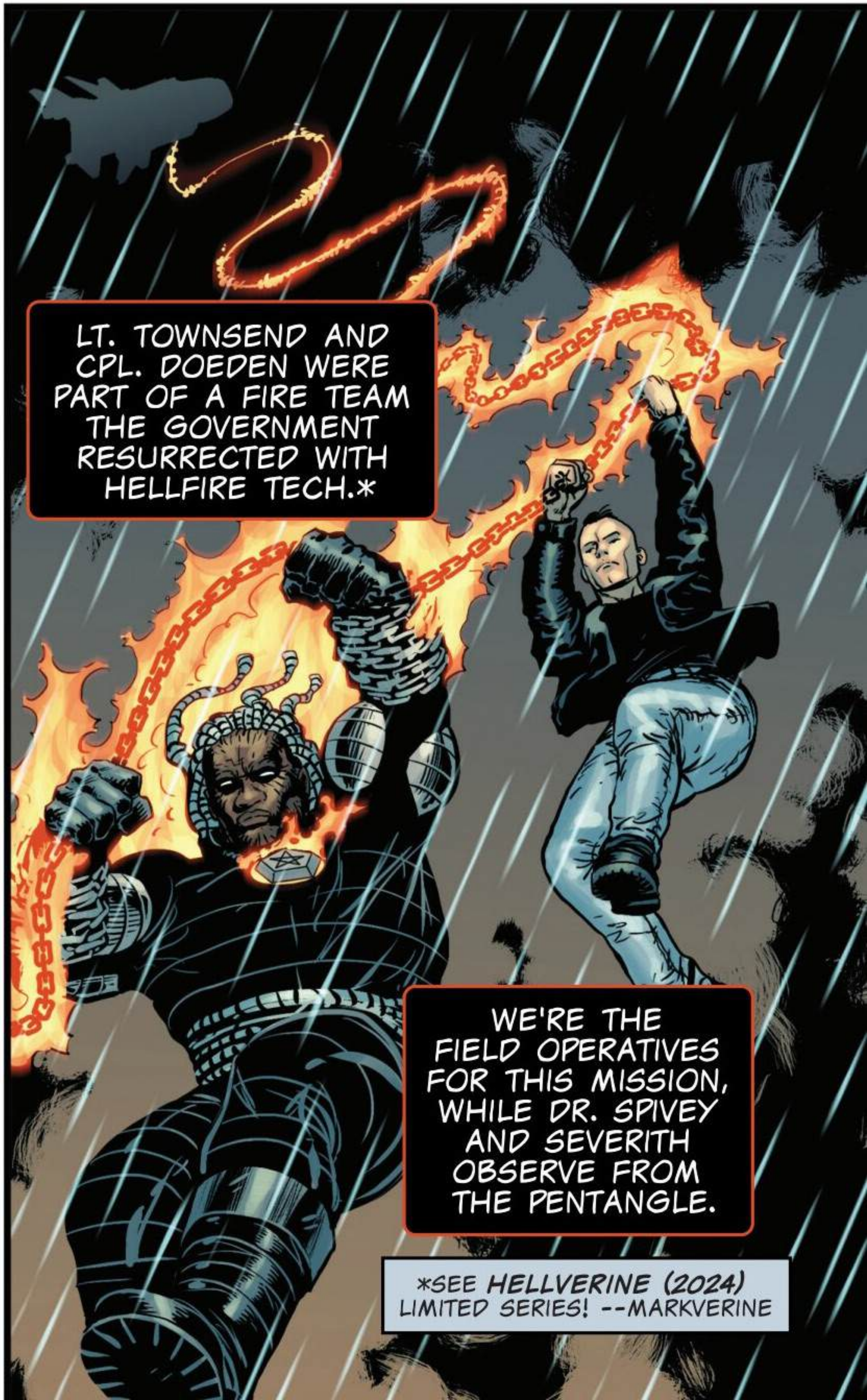


EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ARE HOLDING OFF UNTIL THE STORM SUBSIDES.

THIS IS AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET!



HOLD ON TO ME.



LT. TOWNSEND AND CPL. DOEDEN WERE PART OF A FIRE TEAM THE GOVERNMENT RESURRECTED WITH HELLFIRE TECH.*

WE'RE THE FIELD OPERATIVES FOR THIS MISSION, WHILE DR. SPIVEY AND SEVERITH OBSERVE FROM THE PENTANGLE.

*SEE HELLVERINE (2024) LIMITED SERIES! --MARKVERINE

WE HAVE TO
HELP THESE
PEOPLE...



...EVEN AS THEY TRY TO
DESTROY US AND THEMSELVES.



THE SAME AS
WHEN I VISITED
THAT HOUSE...



...I CAN SENSE
SOMETHING.



THE POWER
COMES OFF
IT IN WAVES.







“LABORATORIES OF HELL”

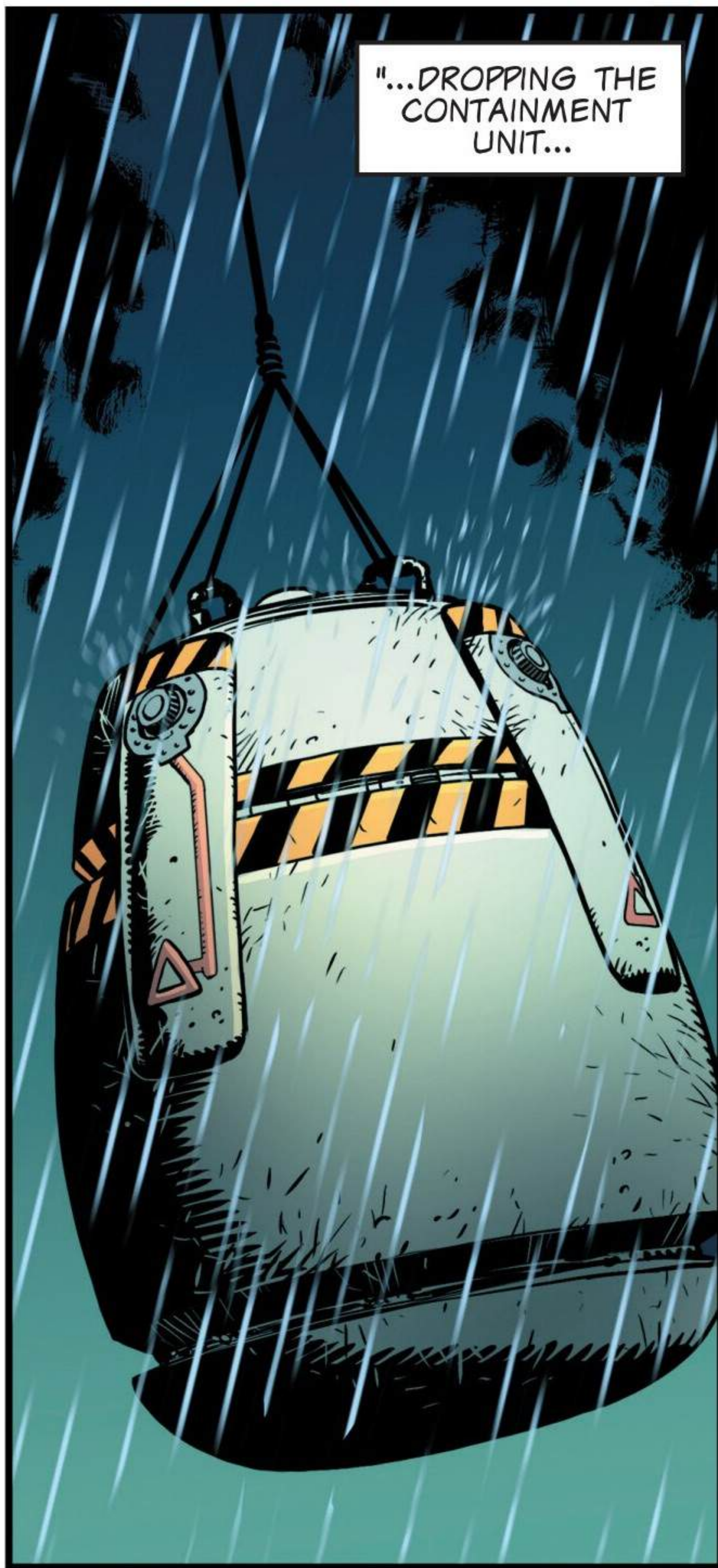
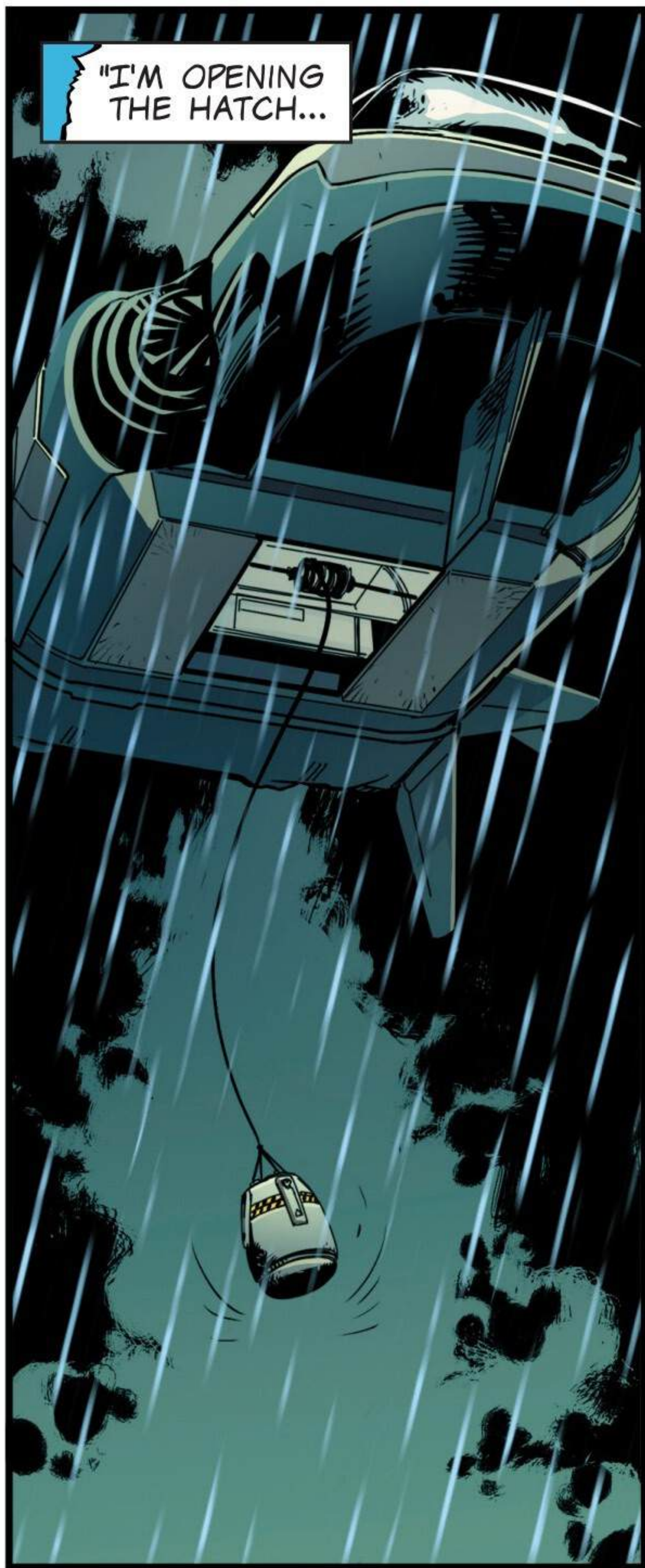
LAKE MICHIGAN.

HELLVERINE?
THIS IS
TOWNSEND.

WE'RE IN
TROUBLE.

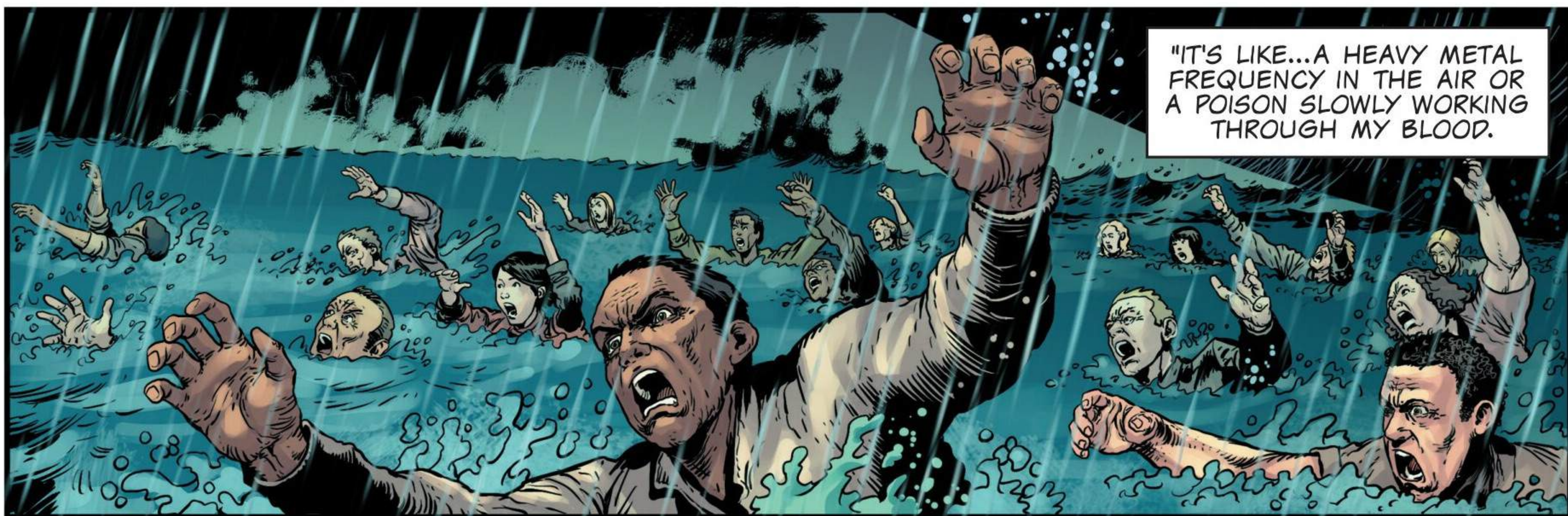
I'M
STRUGGLING
TO KEEP THE
HELLBRUISER
UNDER CONTROL
IN THESE GALE-
FORCE
WINDS.

AND
CORPORAL DOEDEN
IS DOING HIS BEST
TO DEFEND HIMSELF
AGAINST A BOATLOAD
OF PEOPLE WHO ALL
WANT TO TEAR HIM
AND THEMSELVES
TO PIECES.





"I'M EVEN STARTING TO FEEL IT."



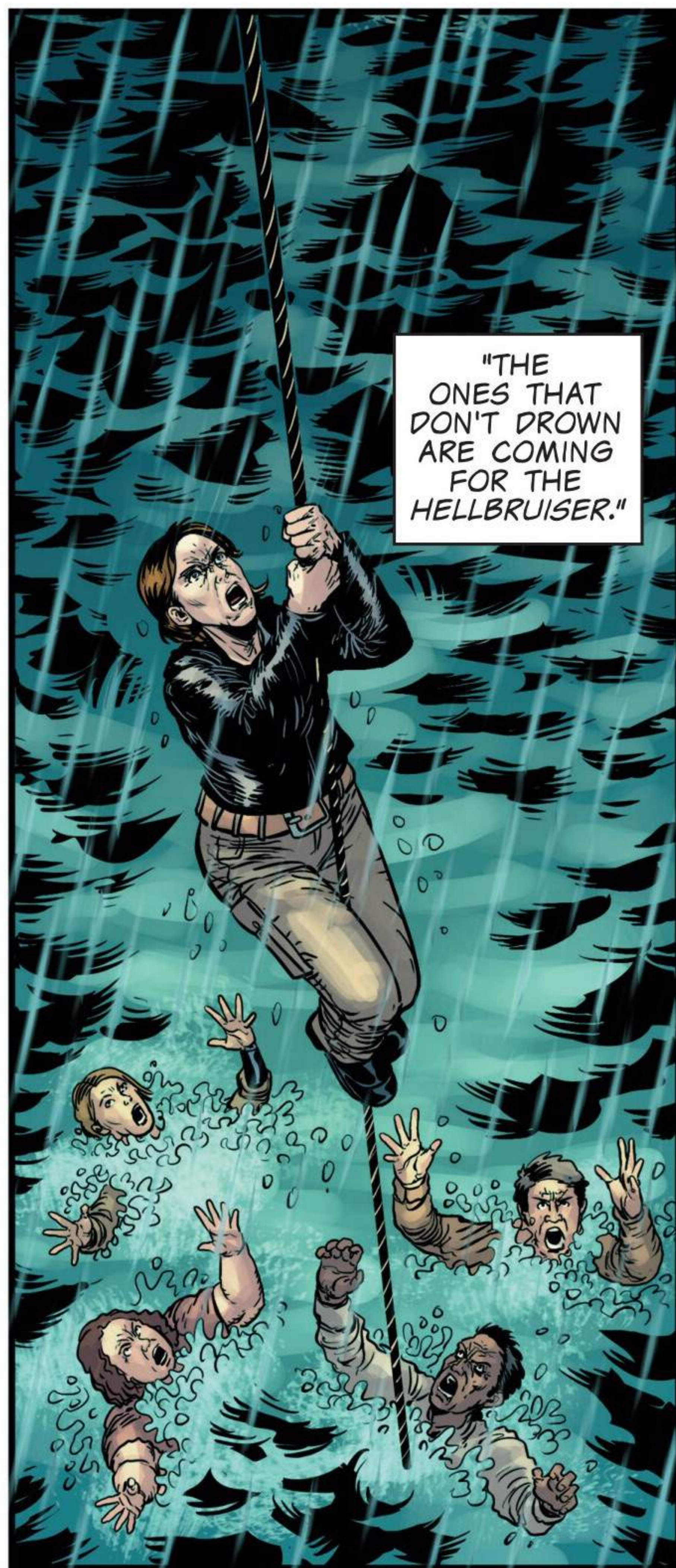
"IT'S LIKE...A HEAVY METAL FREQUENCY IN THE AIR OR A POISON SLOWLY WORKING THROUGH MY BLOOD."



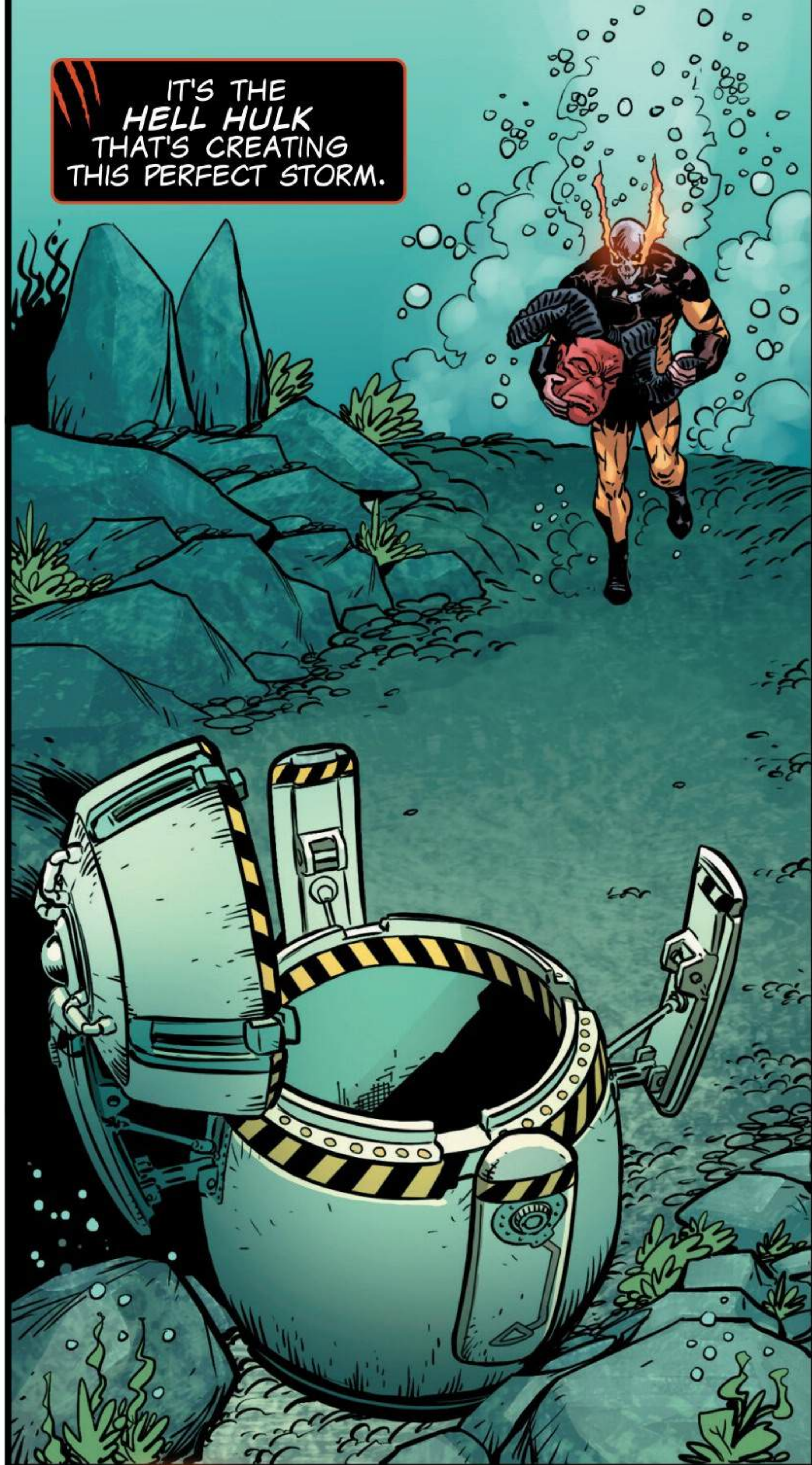
"WE'RE ALL LOSING CONTROL."



"THE PASSENGERS HAVE THROWN THEMSELVES OVERBOARD."



"THE ONES THAT DON'T DROWN ARE COMING FOR THE HELLBRUISER."



IT'S THE
HELL HULK
THAT'S CREATING
THIS PERFECT STORM.



THE PIECES OF
HIM THAT WE'VE
UNCOVERED
SO FAR...



...GIVE OFF AN
ENERGY THAT SENDS
PEOPLE INTO A
MINDLESS RAGE.



I SEEM TO
BE IMMUNE
TO IT...



...MAYBE
BECAUSE
OF THE
DEVIL
IN ME.

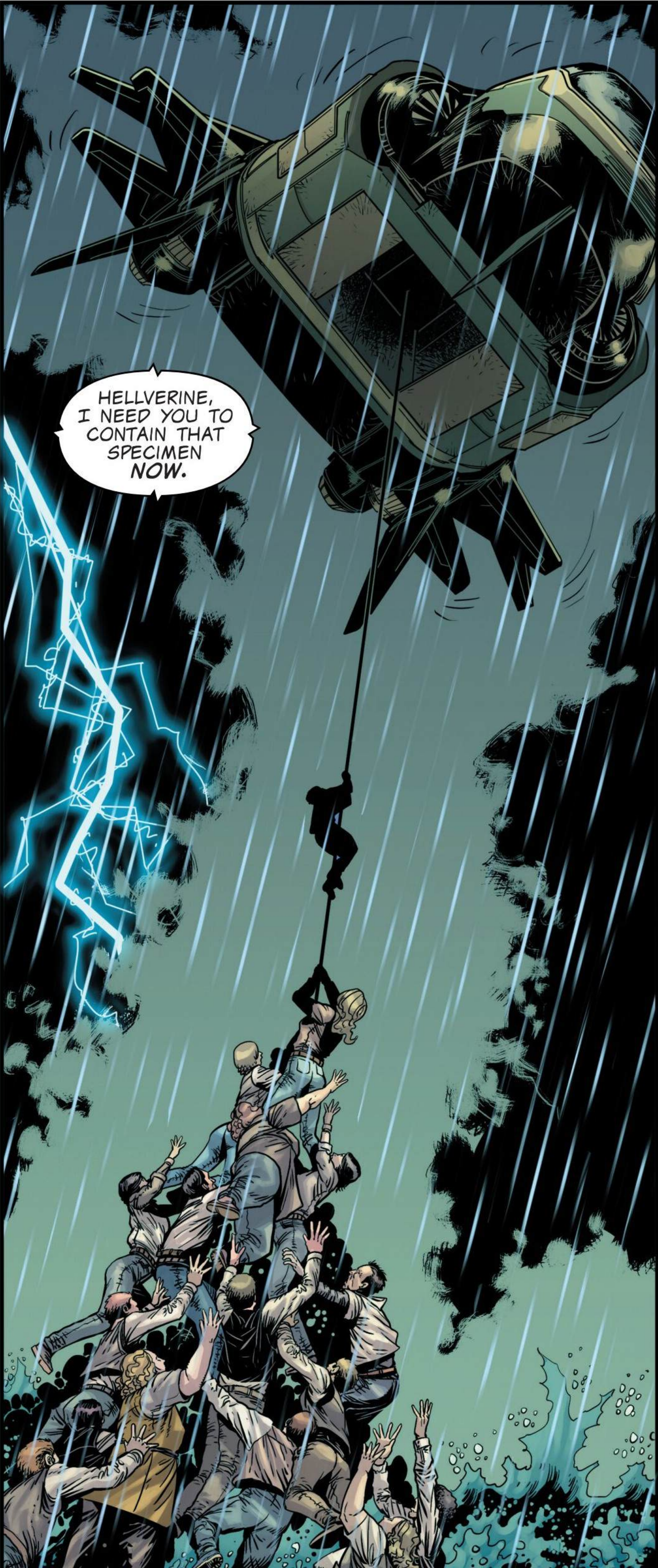


BUT MY
INFERNAL SENSE
IS LIGHTING
UP LIKE A
FOREST FIRE.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I SEE IN
THAT BURNING
MOMENT.



BUT IT SCARES
THE HELL
OUT OF ME.

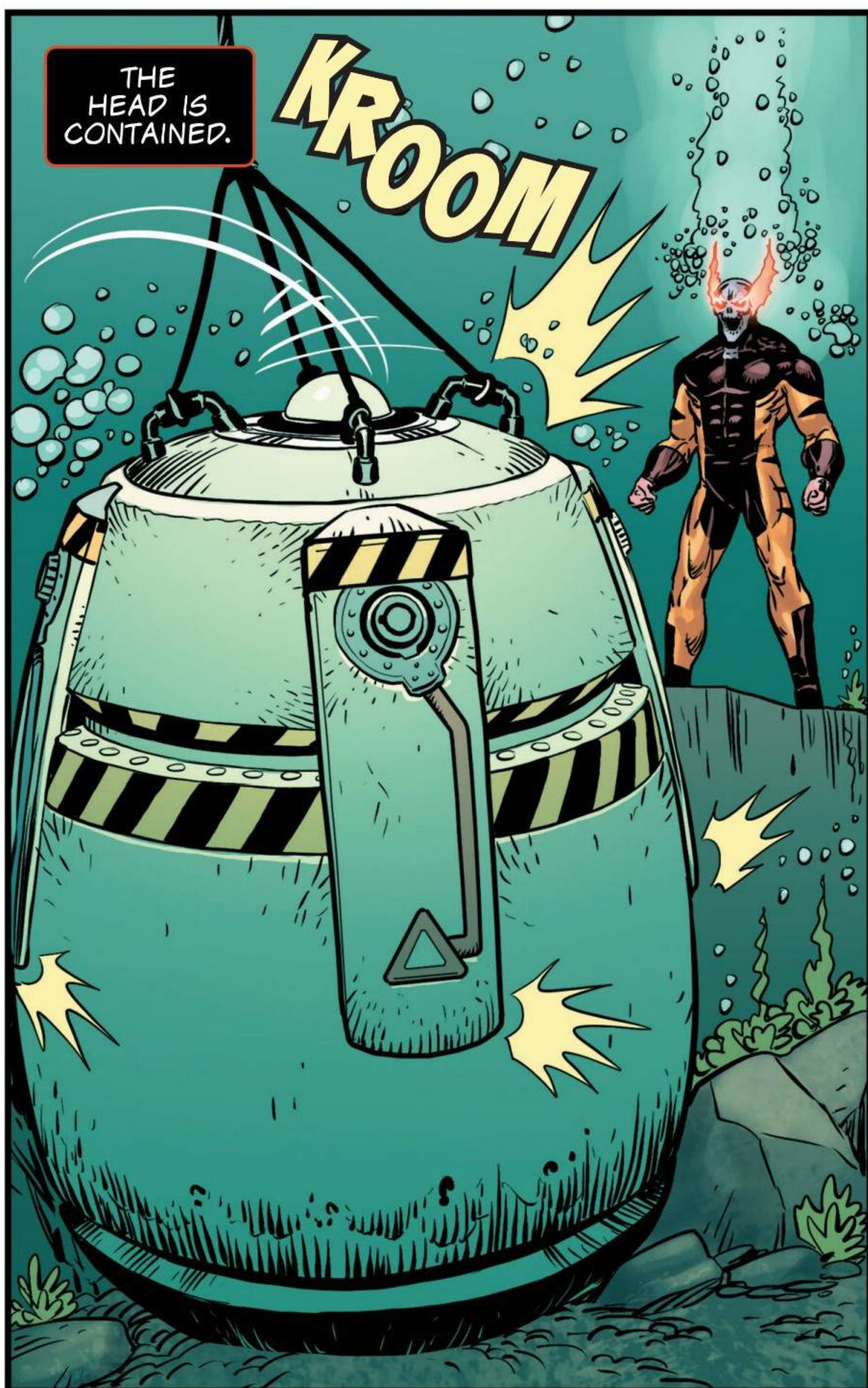




WHATEVER
THAT VISION WAS,
THE FIRE OF
IT BLISTERED
MY BRAIN.



I SHOOK
IT OFF
JUST IN
TIME.

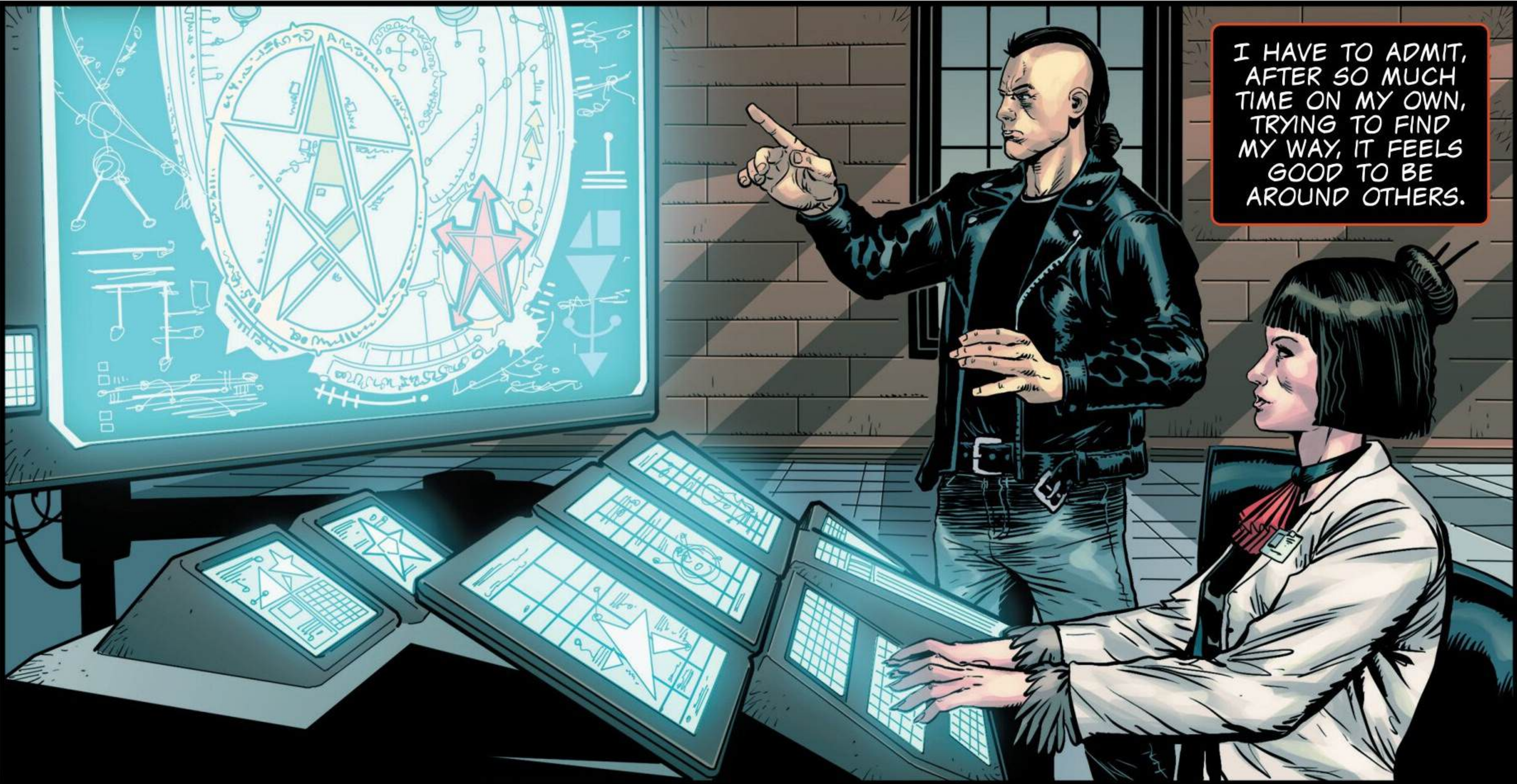


THE
HEAD IS
CONTAINED.

KROOM

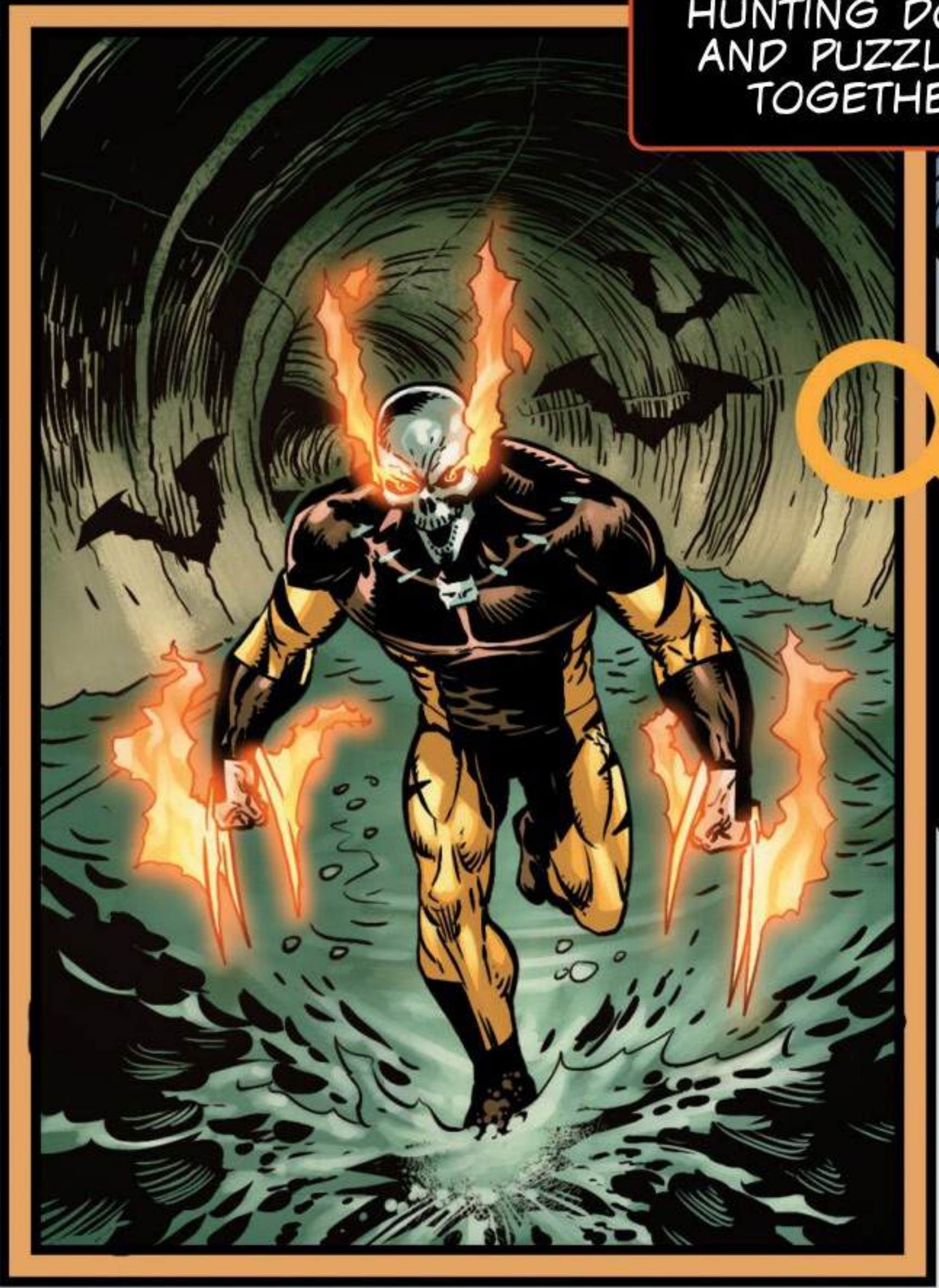


THE LIVING ARE
RESCUED FROM
ITS HELLISH
INFLUENCE.



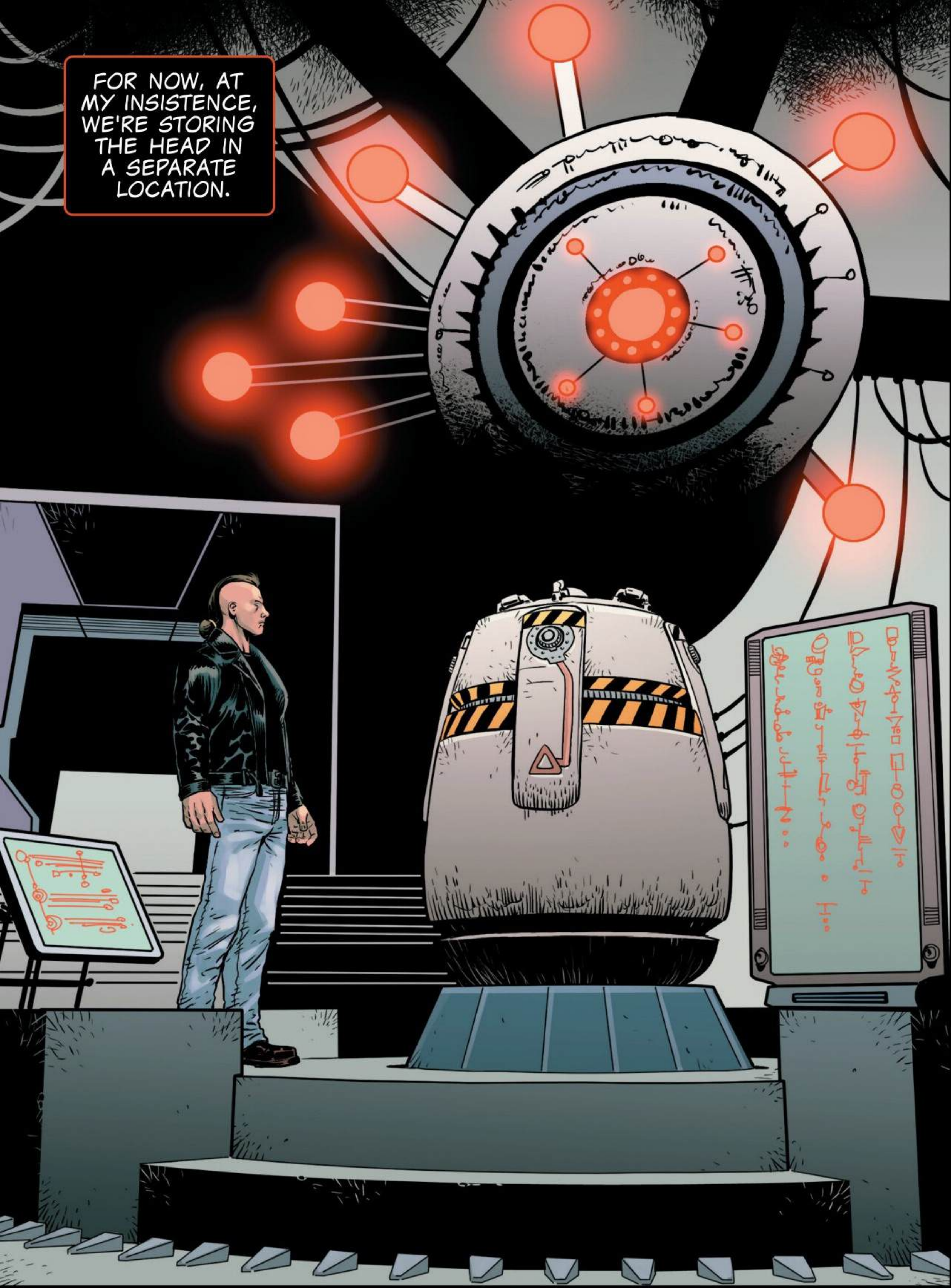


BUT
SOMETHING'S
MISSING.

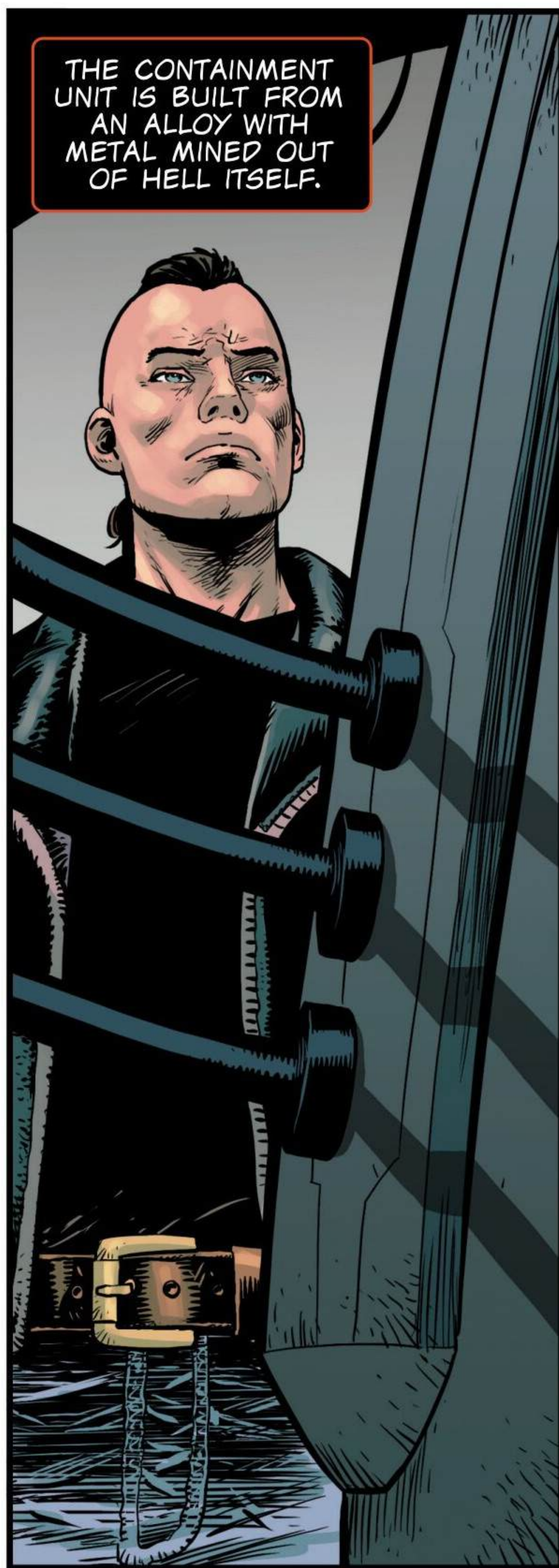


AND I DON'T
JUST MEAN
THESE PIECES OF
HELL HULK WE'RE
HUNTING DOWN
AND PUZZLING
TOGETHER.

IT'S THE MYSTERY OF
HIS LARGER STORY--
AND HOW IT FITS
TOGETHER WITH MINE.



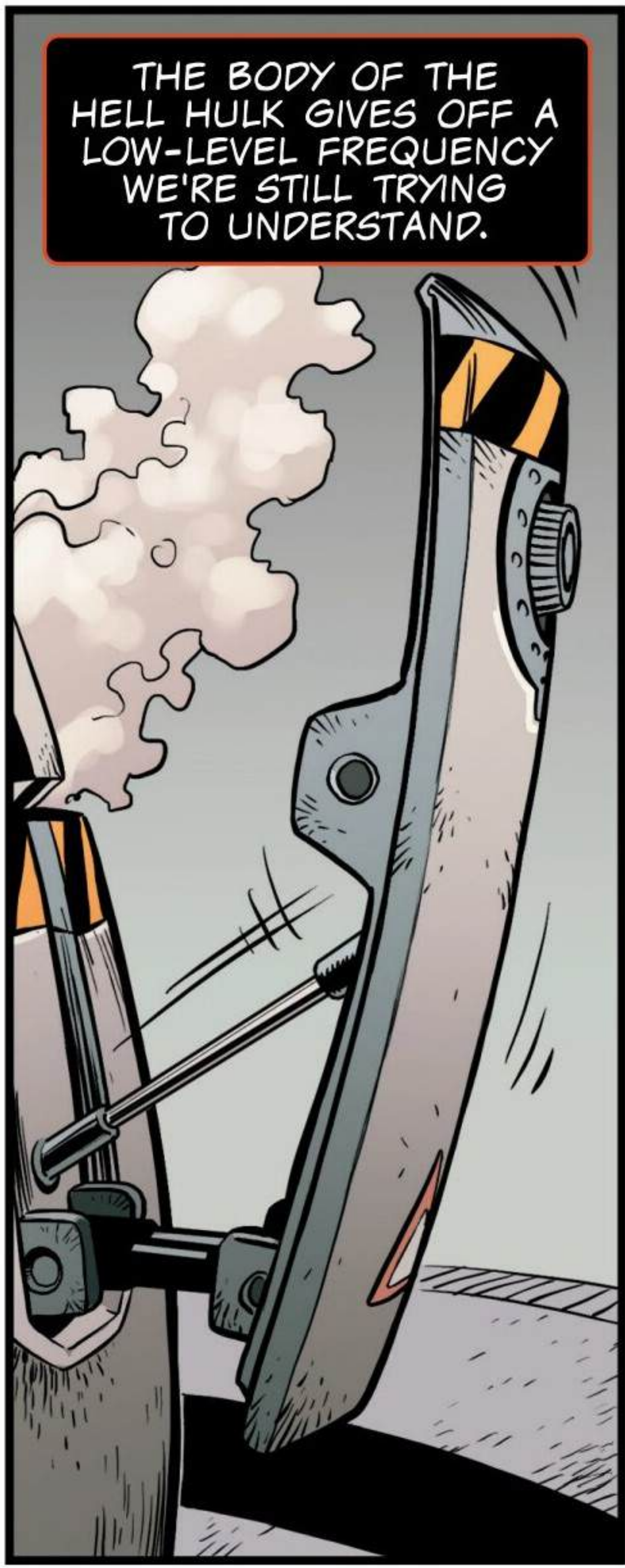
FOR NOW, AT MY INSISTENCE, WE'RE STORING THE HEAD IN A SEPARATE LOCATION.



THE CONTAINMENT UNIT IS BUILT FROM AN ALLOY WITH METAL MINED OUT OF HELL ITSELF.



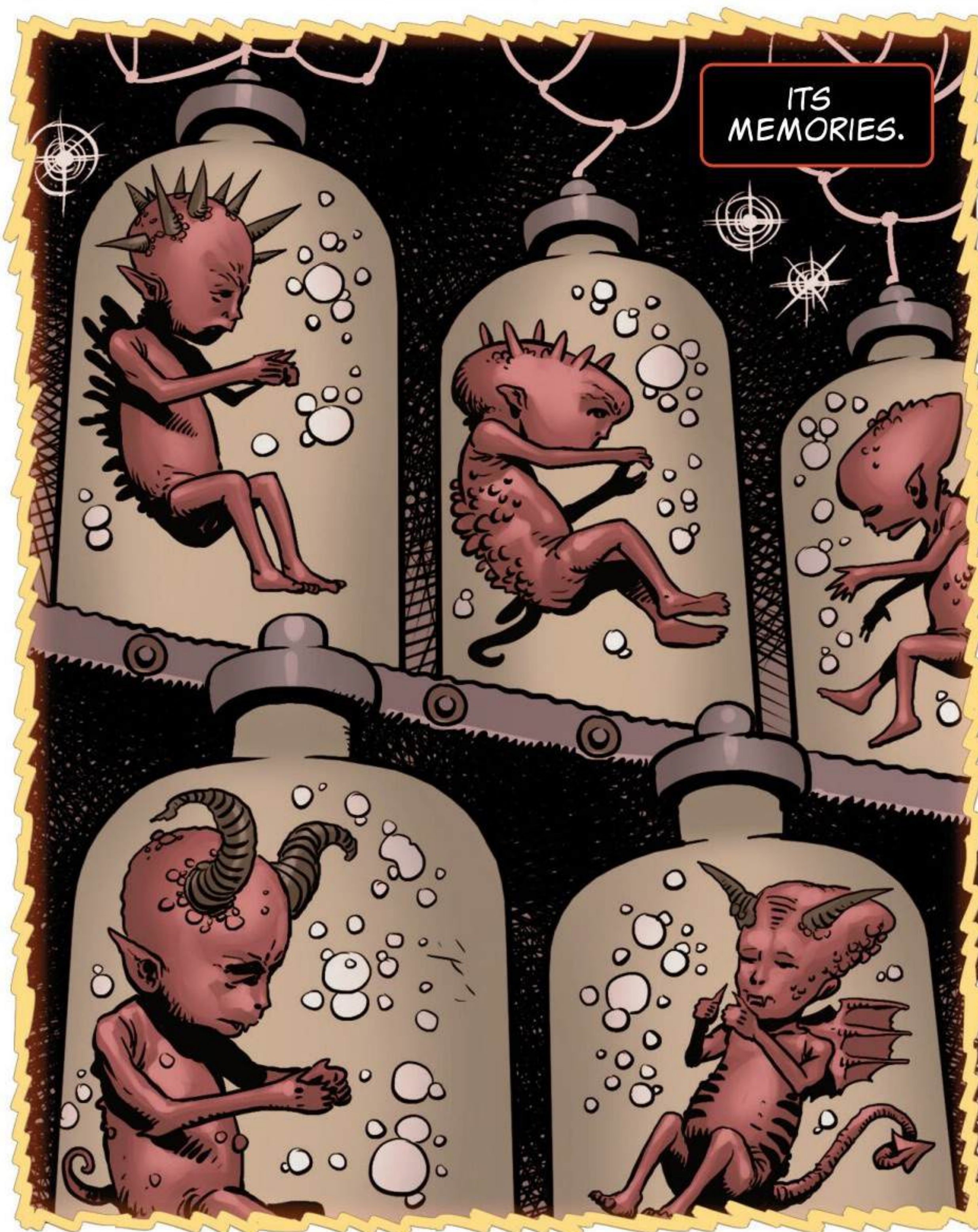
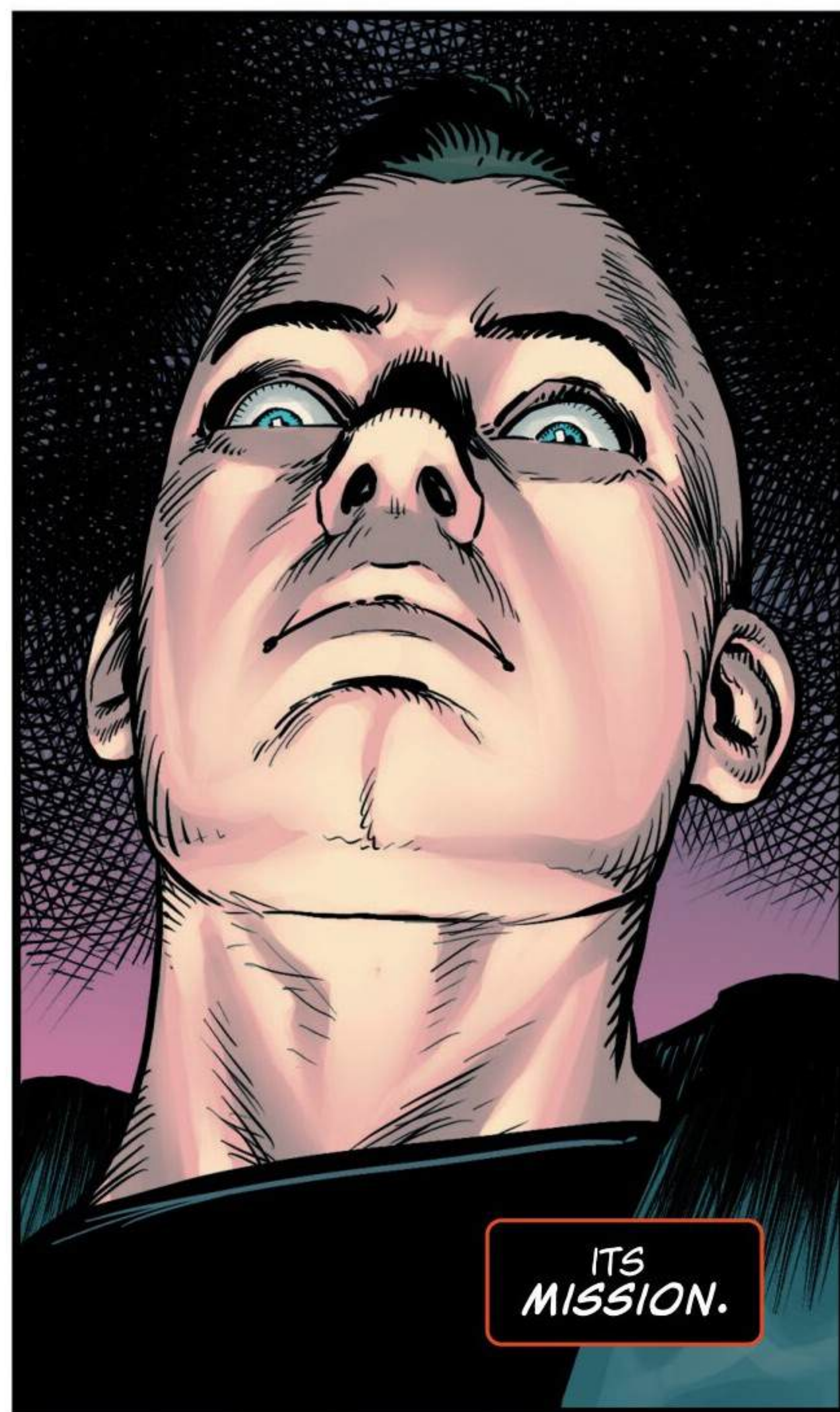
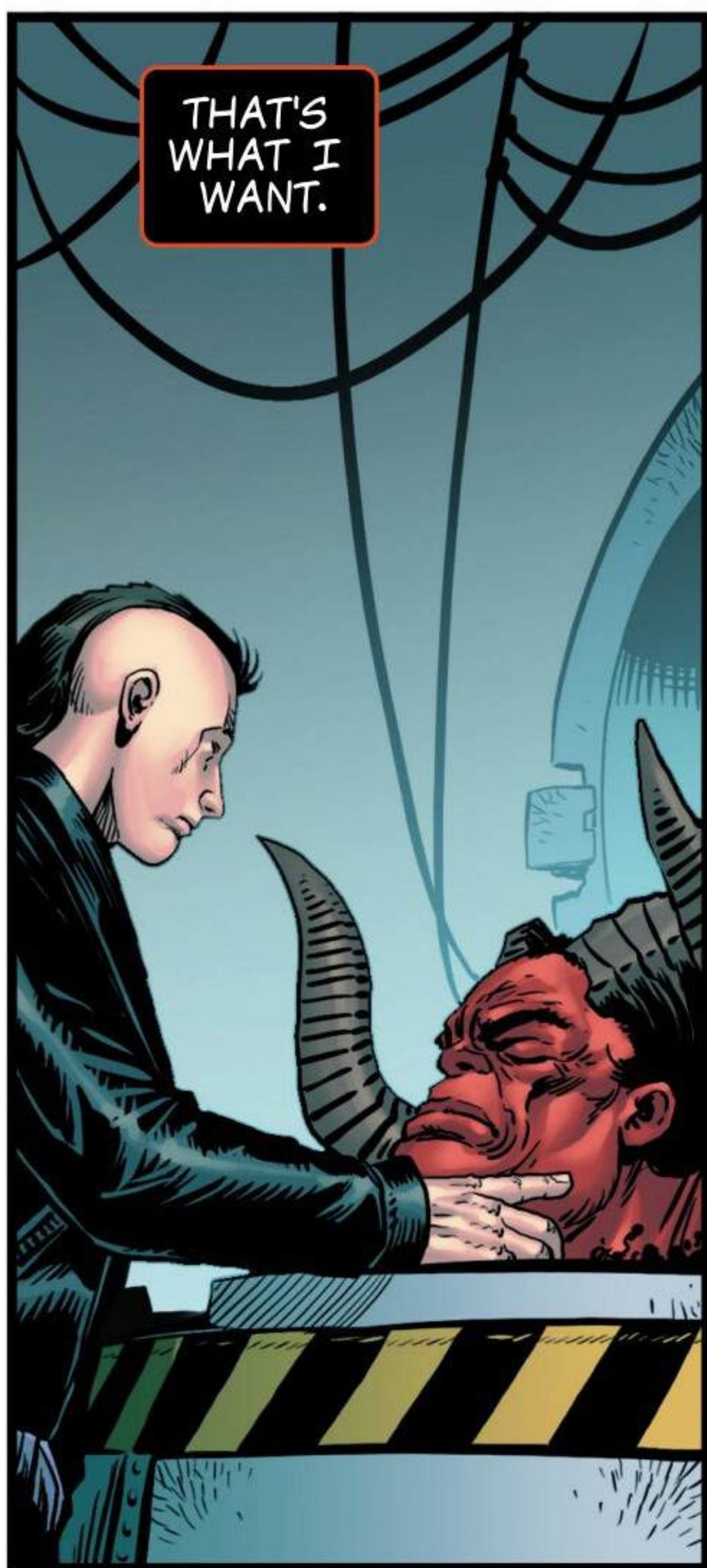
BUT I CAN STILL SENSE THE RAGE COMING OFF IT, LIKE AN ANGRY VOICE HEARD THROUGH THE WALLS OF AN APARTMENT.



THE BODY OF THE HELL HULK GIVES OFF A LOW-LEVEL FREQUENCY WE'RE STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND.



BUT THE HEAD GIVES OFF A FAR STRONGER SIGNAL, LIKE A POWER CELL.





SCREAMS
OF RAGE
AND PAIN.

HELLFIRE
AND
SULFUR.

SCIENTIFIC
AND SURGICAL
EQUIPMENT.

A FURNACE
OR REACTOR.

A
LABORATORY.

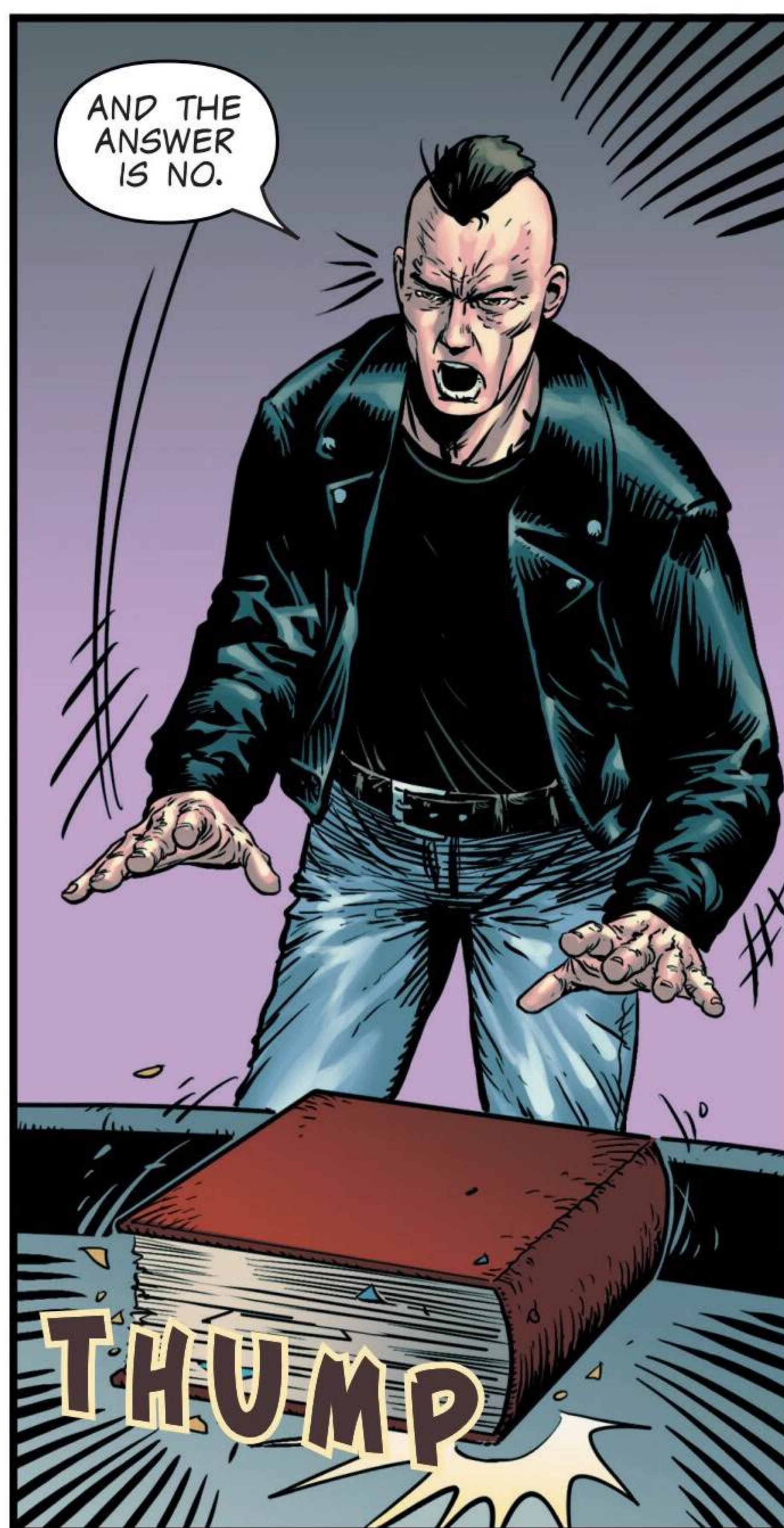
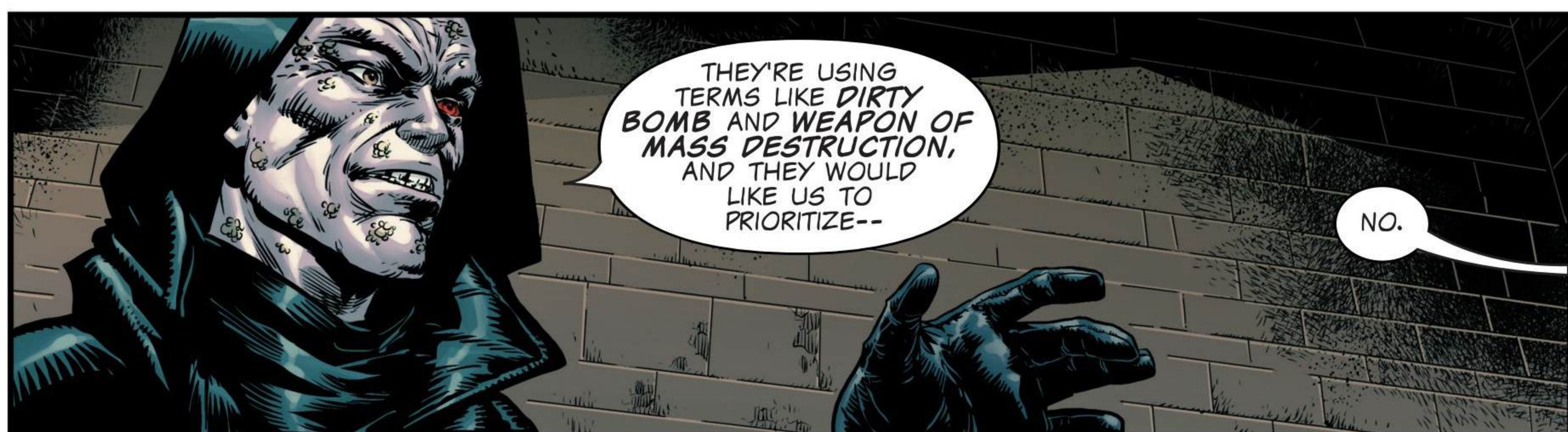
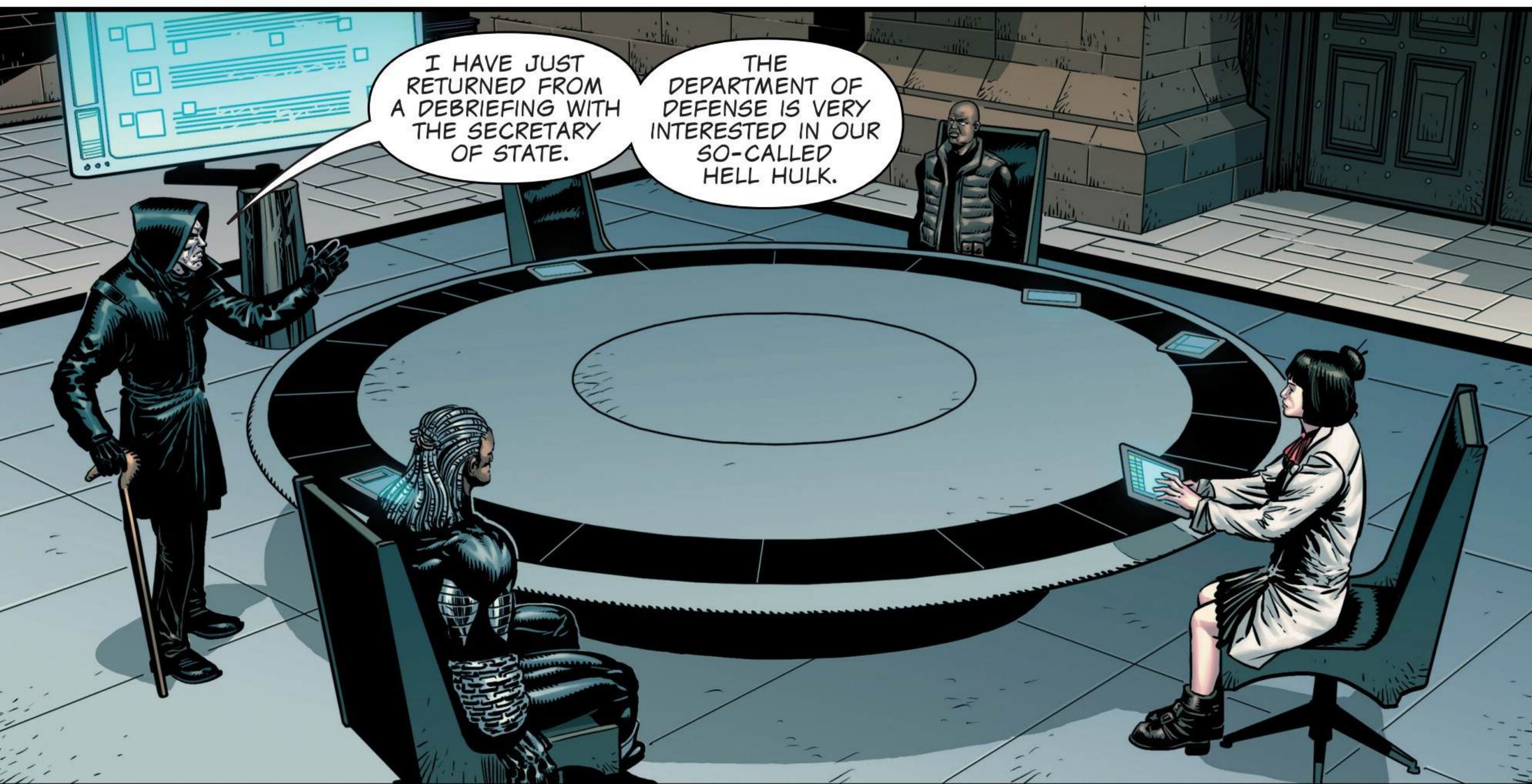
HELL'S OWN
LABORATORY.

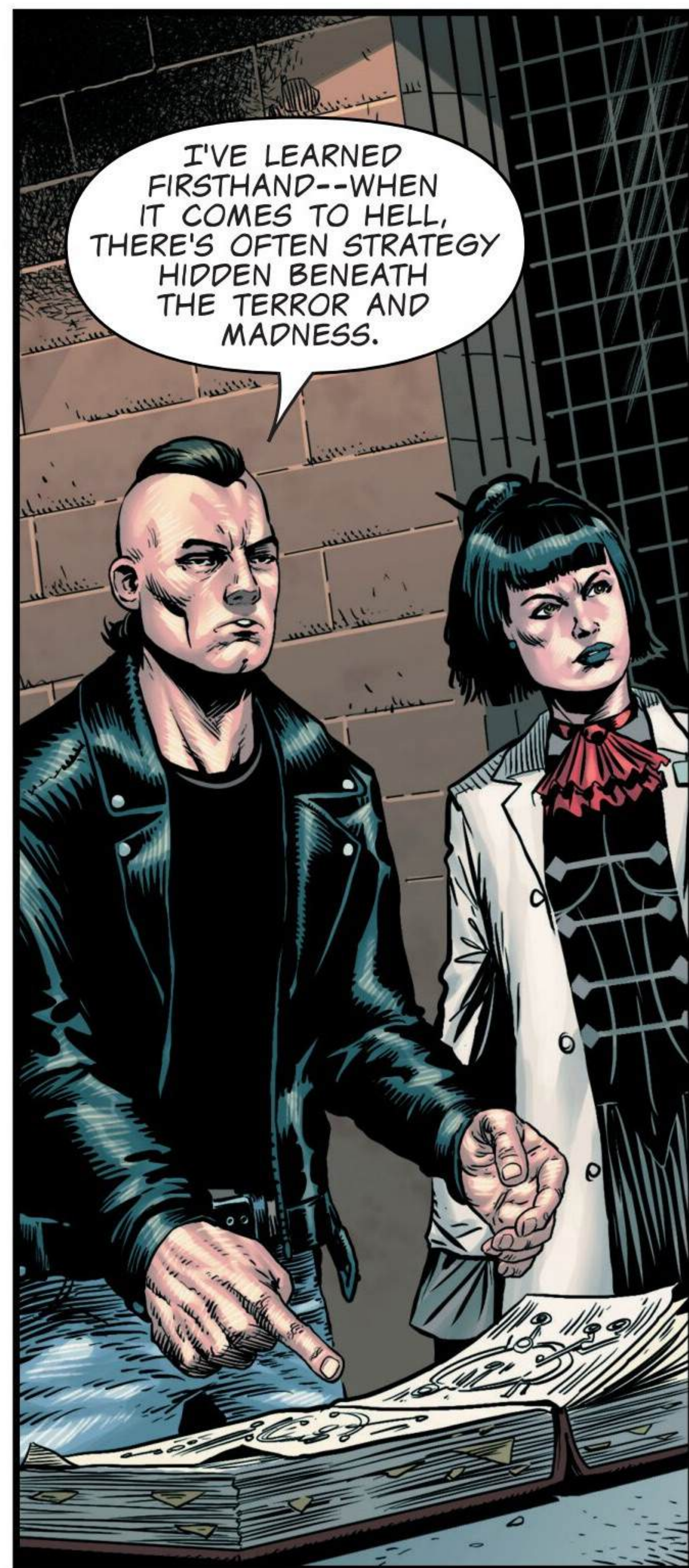
MEPHISTO
IS THERE.

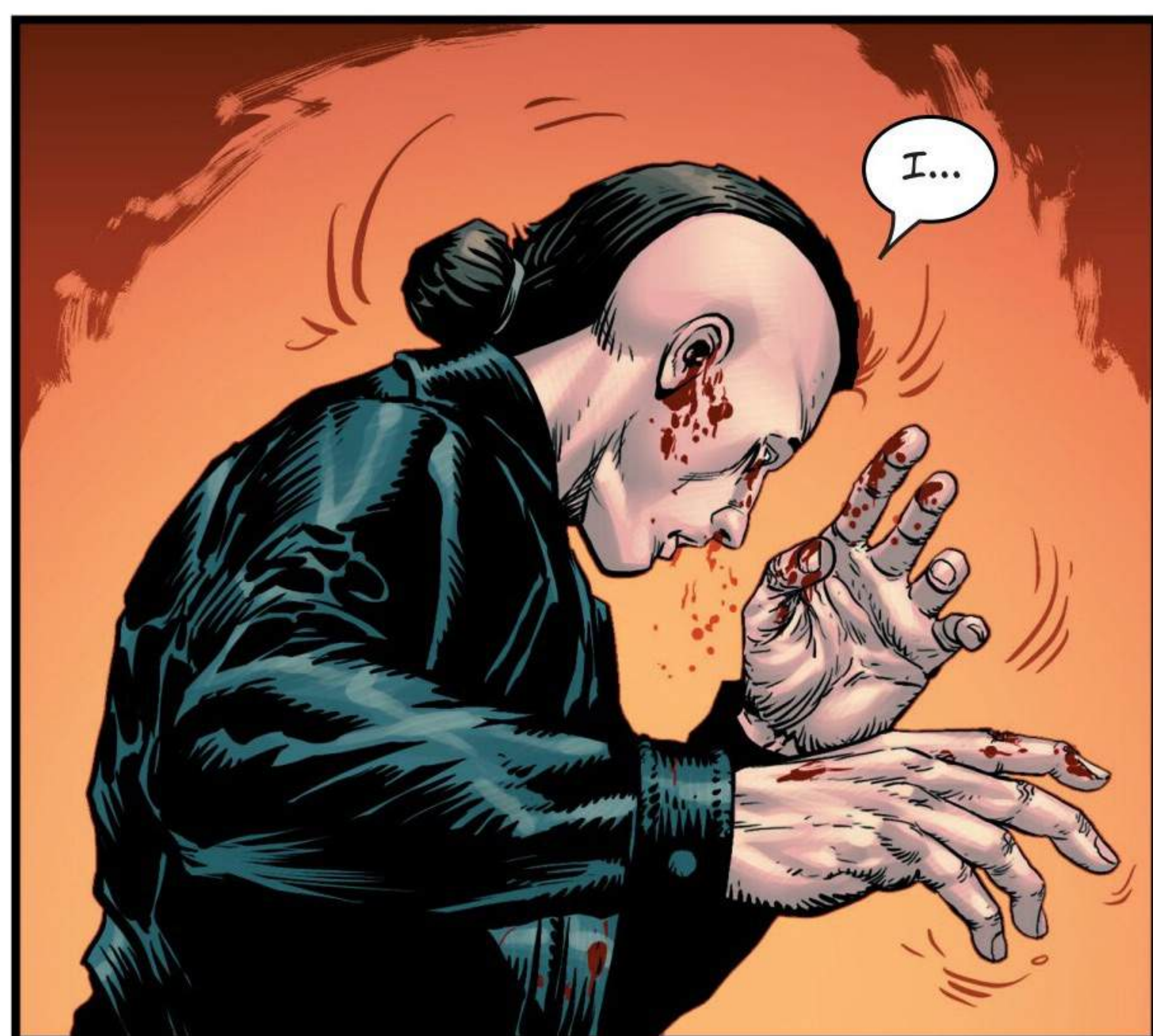
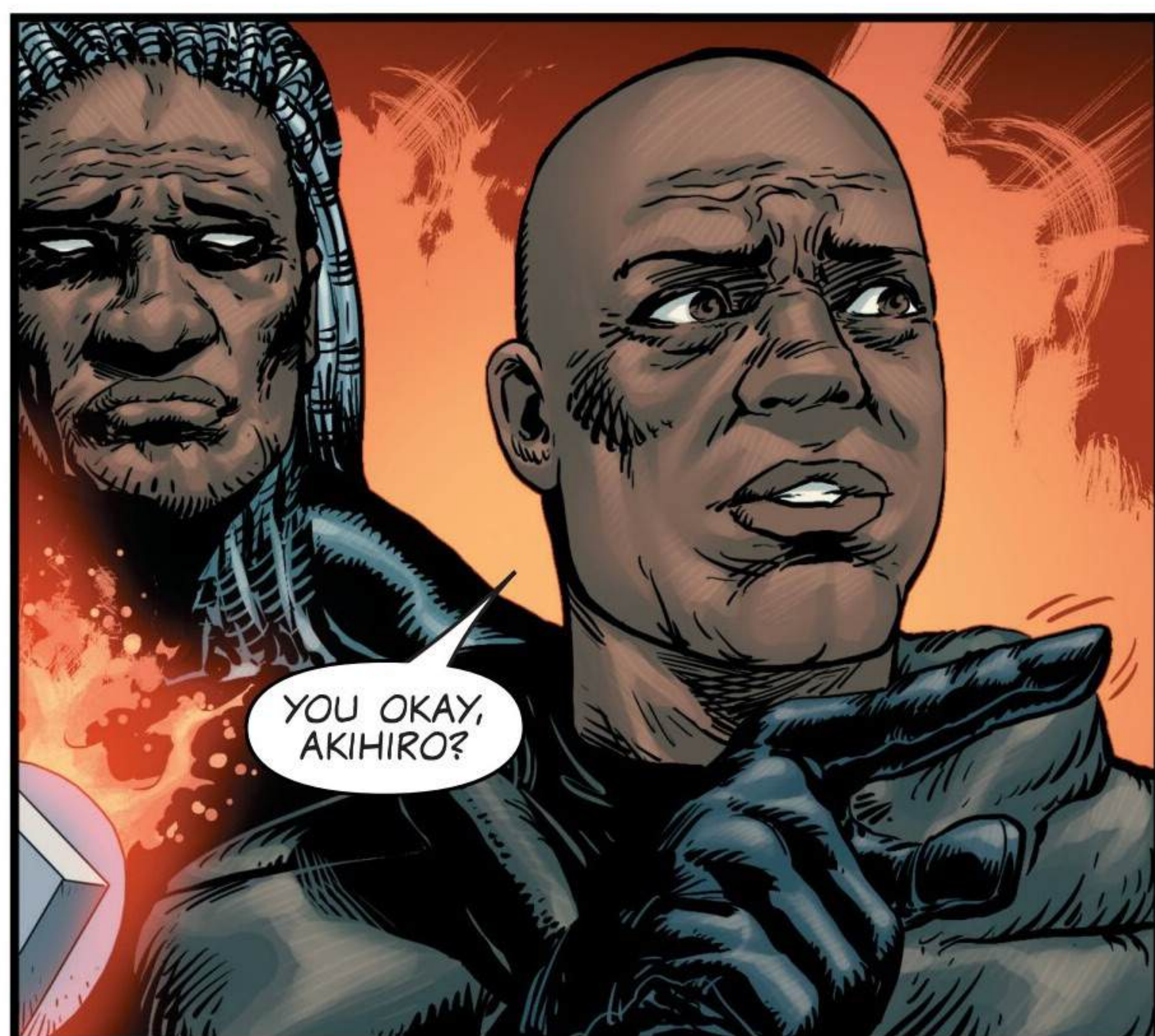
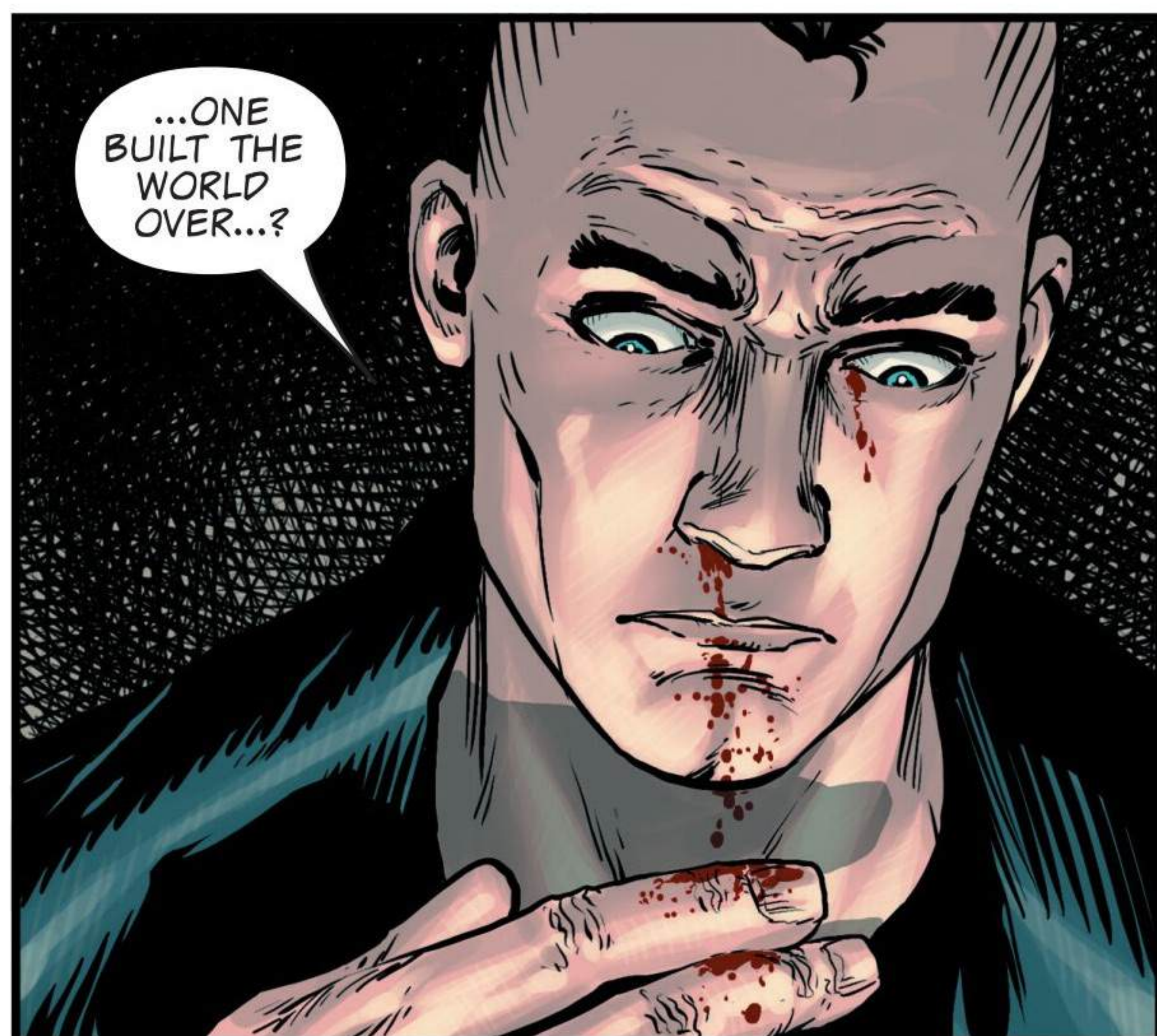
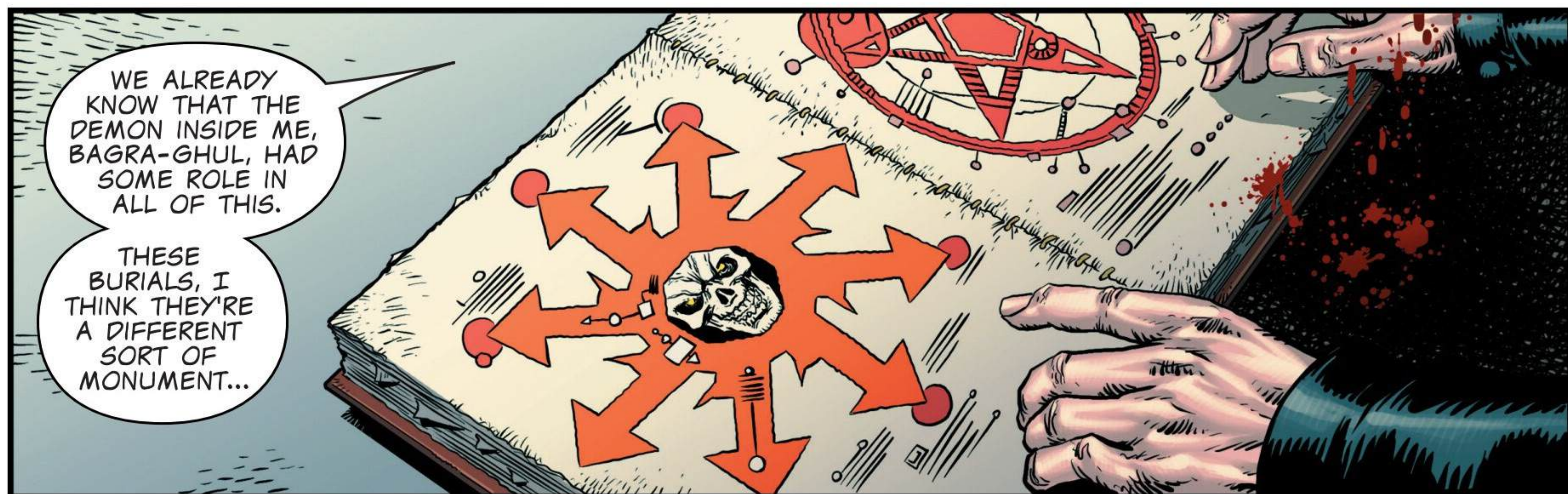
HELL
HULK IS
THERE.

BAGRA-
GHUL IS
THERE.

AND
SOMEONE
ELSE...



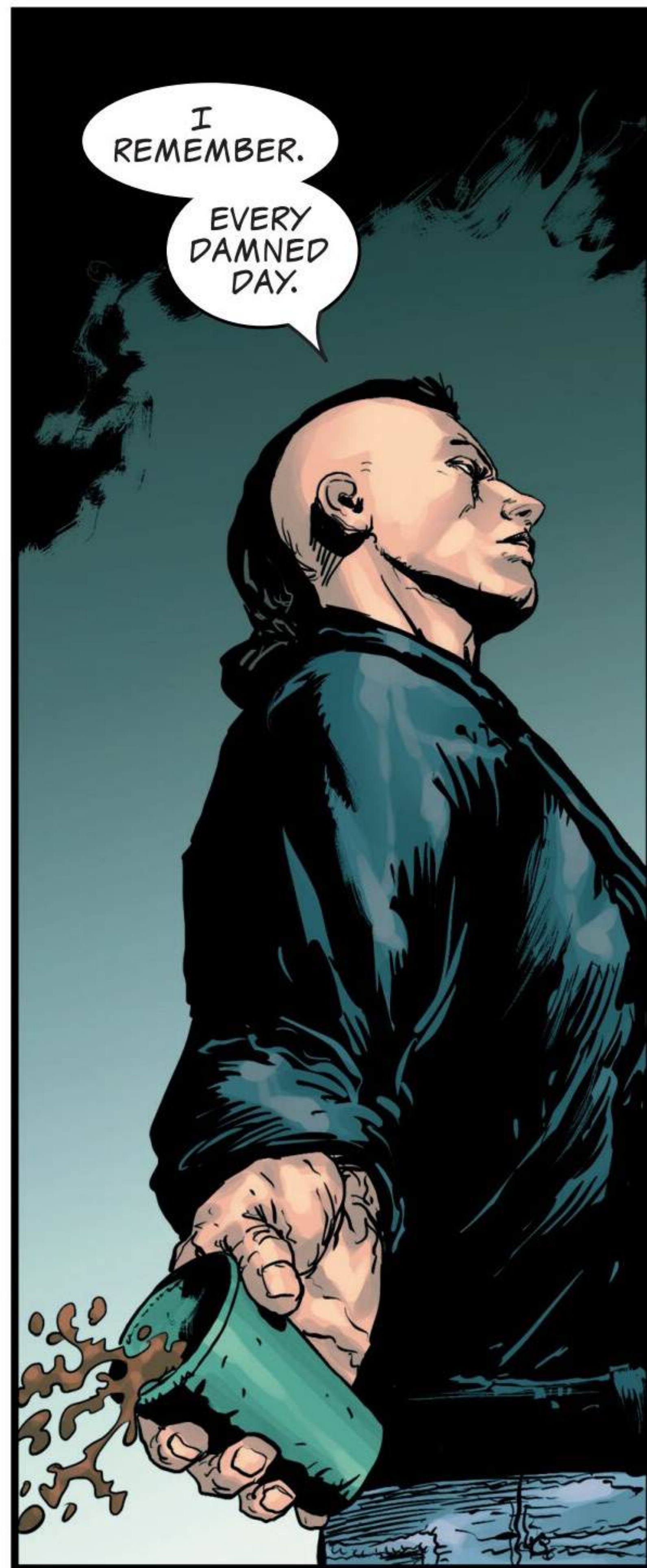


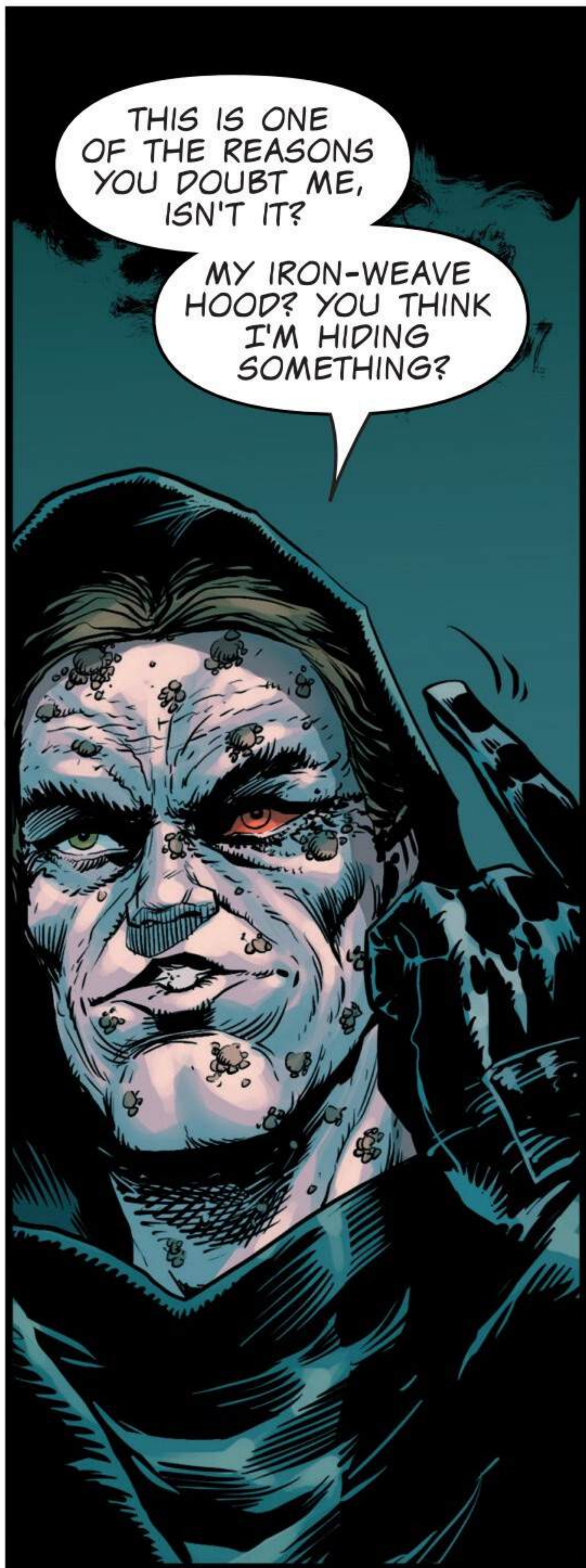


LATER.
ARLINGTON NATIONAL
CEMETERY.

GUESS IT WAS
RECKLESS OF ME,
EXPOSING MYSELF TO
HELL HULK LIKE THAT.







THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS YOU DOUBT ME, ISN'T IT?

MY IRON-WEAVE HOOD? YOU THINK I'M HIDING SOMETHING?



BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE'RE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER.

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO HOLD MY CANE FOR ME?



THE TRUTH IS, I'M ASHAMED.



BECAUSE LIKE YOU, I'M A FAILURE LOOKING FOR A SECOND CHANCE.



GO ON. TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK.



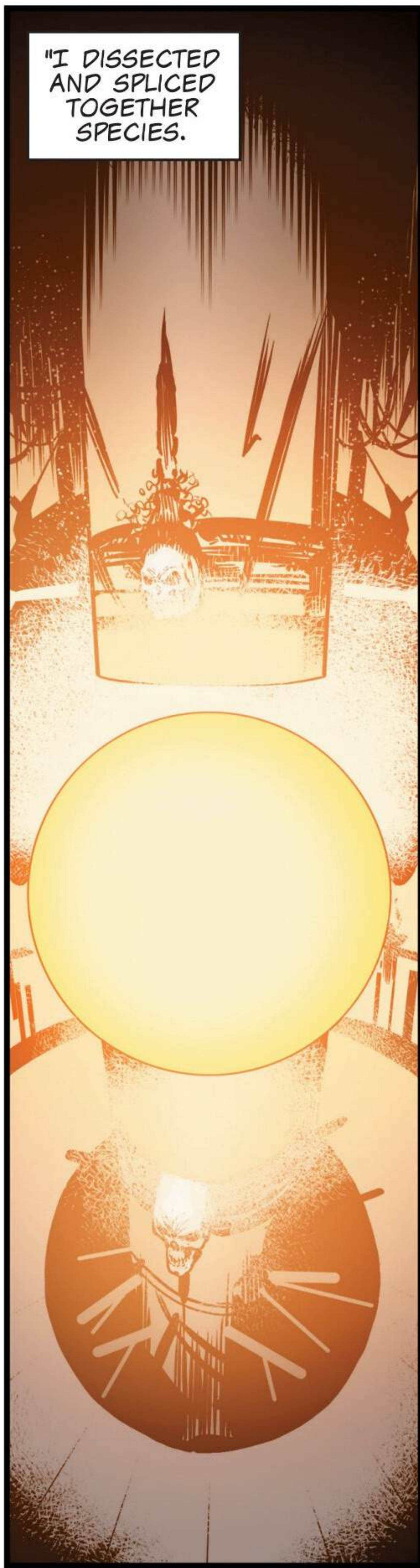
"I WAS
IN CHARGE
OF HELL'S
LABORATORIES.



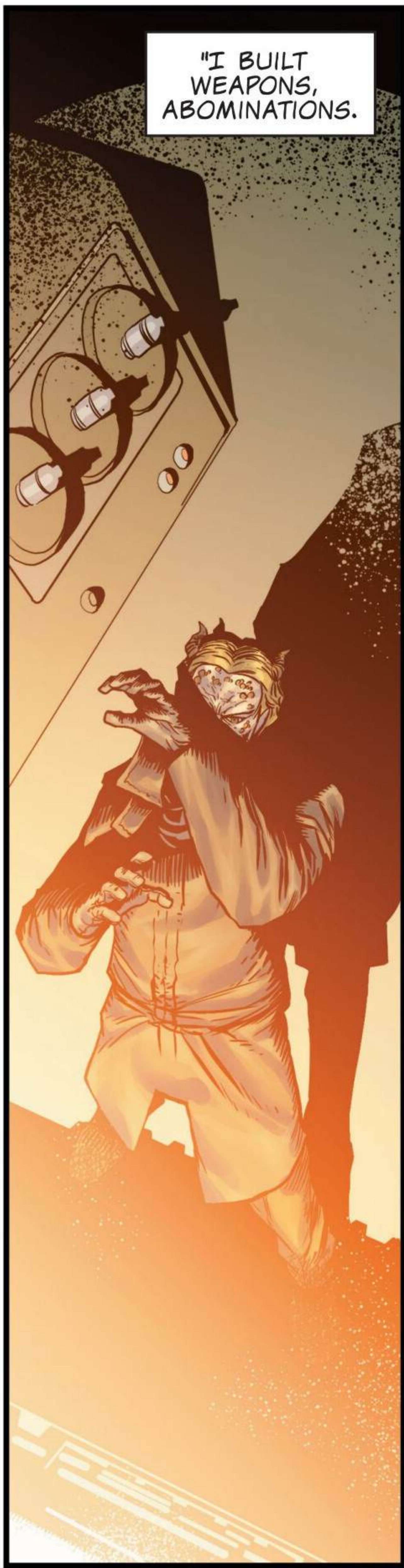
"A PLACE NOT SO
DIFFERENT FROM
PROJECT HELLFIRE.



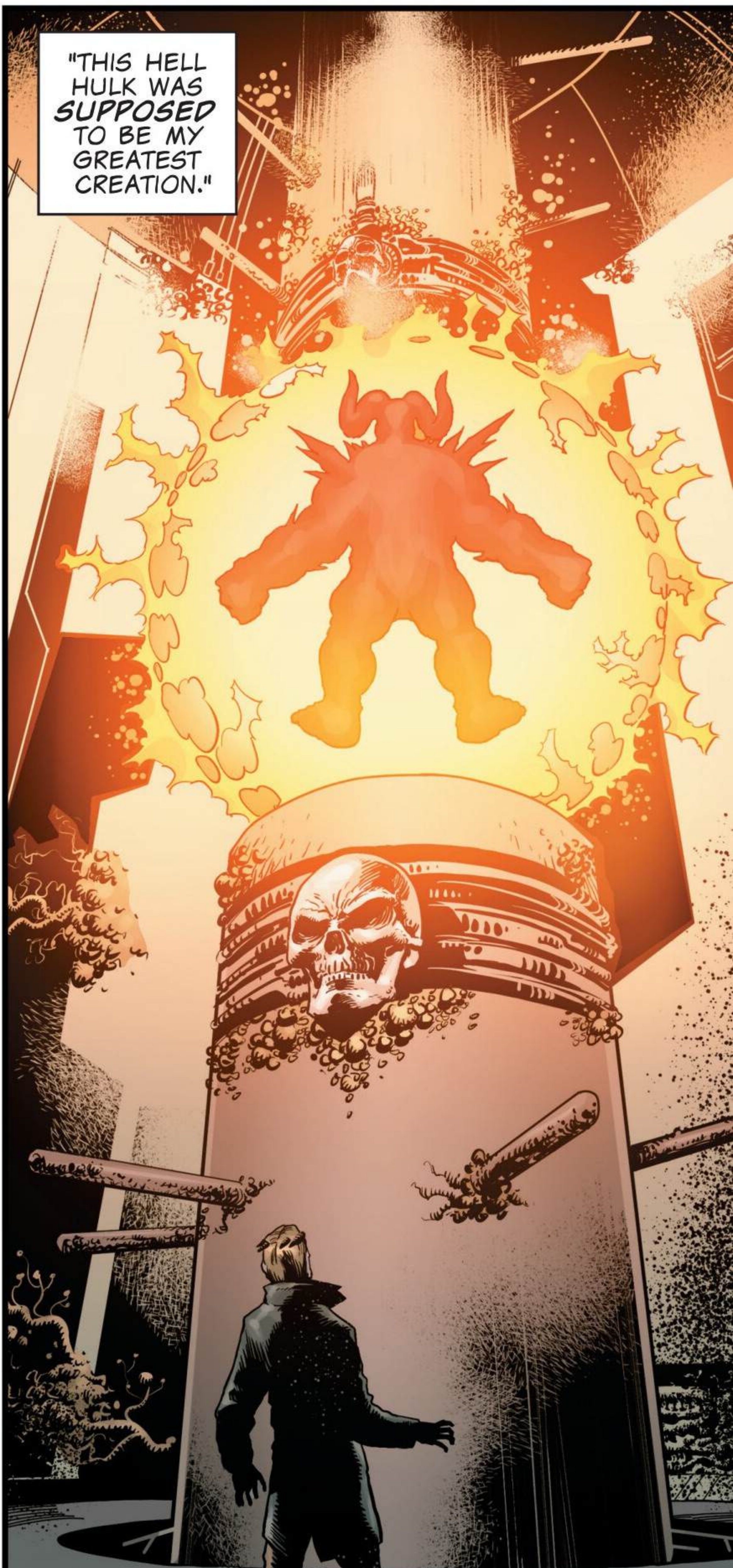
"I EXPERIMENTED WITH
POTIONS AND ALLOYS,
RUNES AND MAGIC.



"I DISSECTED
AND SPLICED
TOGETHER
SPECIES.



"I BUILT
WEAPONS,
ABOMINATIONS.



"THIS HELL
HULK WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE MY
GREATEST
CREATION."



THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY, MUCH MORE, BUT YOU KNOW JUST ENOUGH TO TORTURE YOU IN YOUR GRAVE.



YOU WANT TO PROTEST, I KNOW, BUT YOU CAN'T.

YOU CAN'T MOVE. YOU CAN'T EVEN BREATHE.



THAT'S BECAUSE THE CANE HAS A PARALYZING CURSE WOVEN INTO IT.



IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO SLEEP, AKIHIRO.

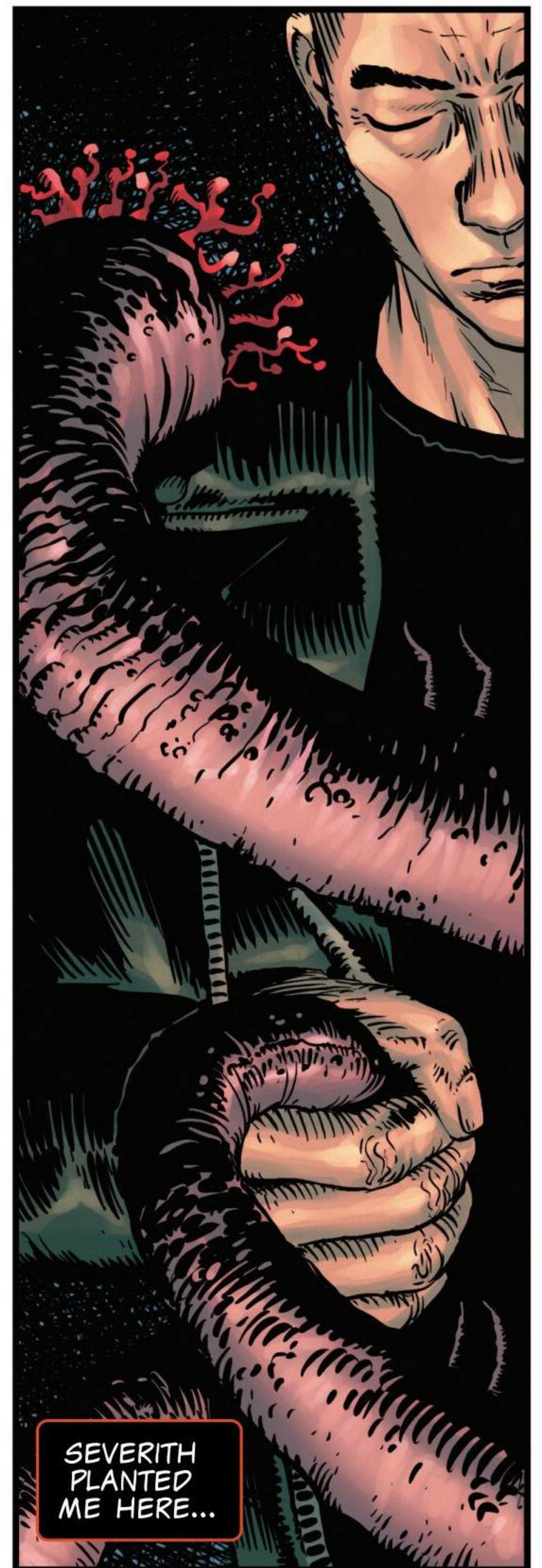
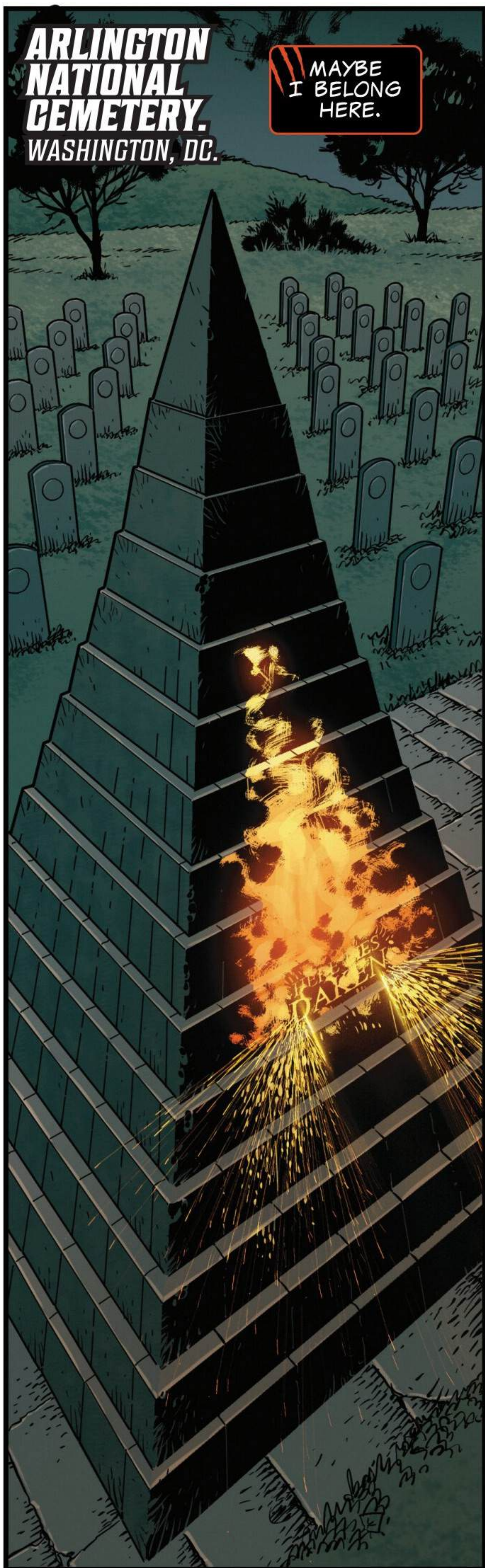


AND IT'S TIME FOR THE HELL HULK TO AWAKEN.

#8



"HELL BREAKS LOOSE"





≡GRK≡

WHEN HE
REMOVED HIS
IRON-WEAVE HOOD,
HIS MIND WAS
REVEALED TO MY
INFERNAL SENSE.



I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO KNOWS WHO
HE REALLY IS...

...A **TRAITOR**
TO PROJECT
HELLFIRE.



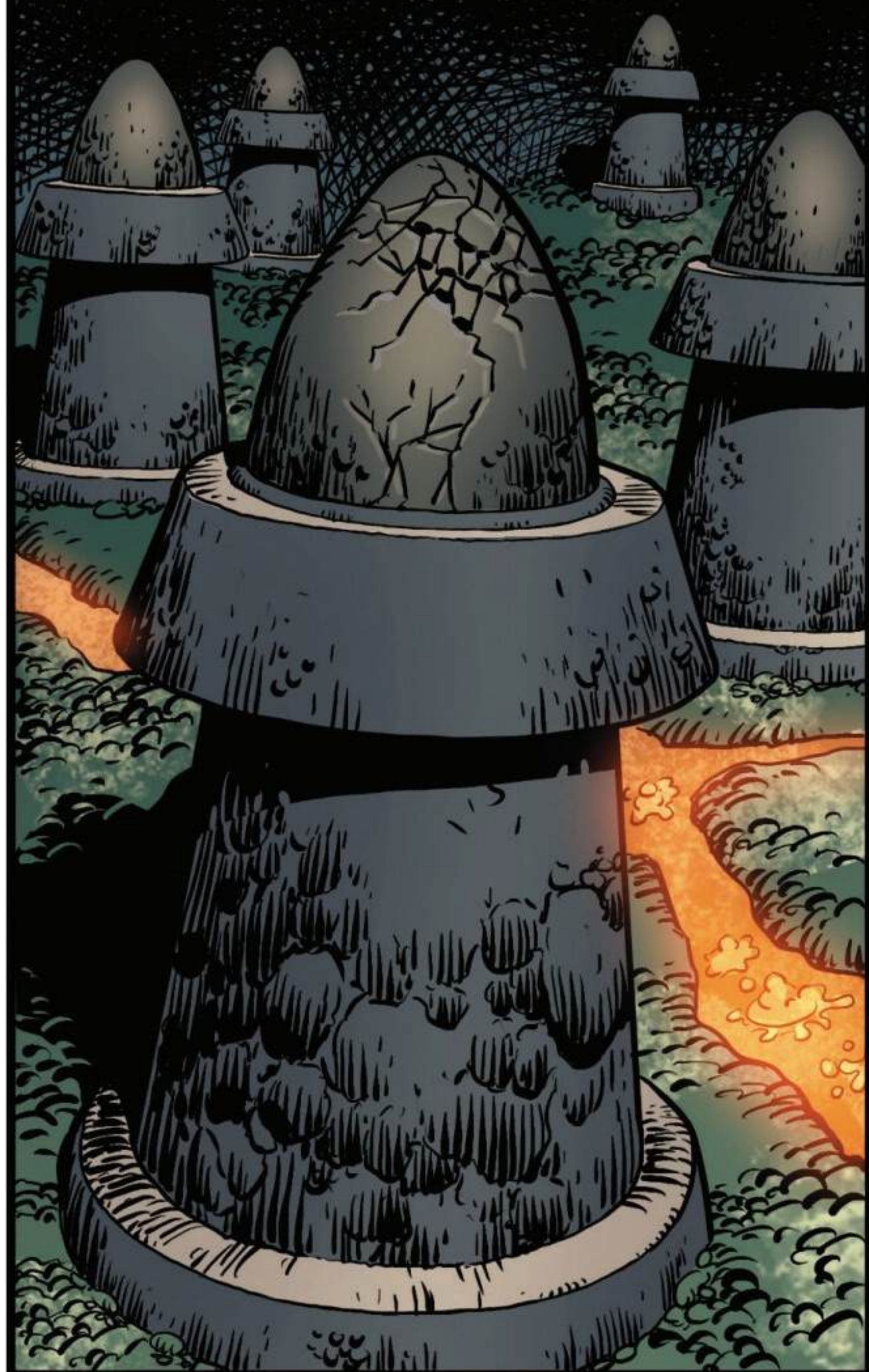
AND I'M THE
ONLY ONE WHO
KNOWS WHAT
HE WANTS:



FOR
ALL HELL
TO BREAK
LOOSE.

HELL'S LABORATORIES.
THE RECENT PAST.

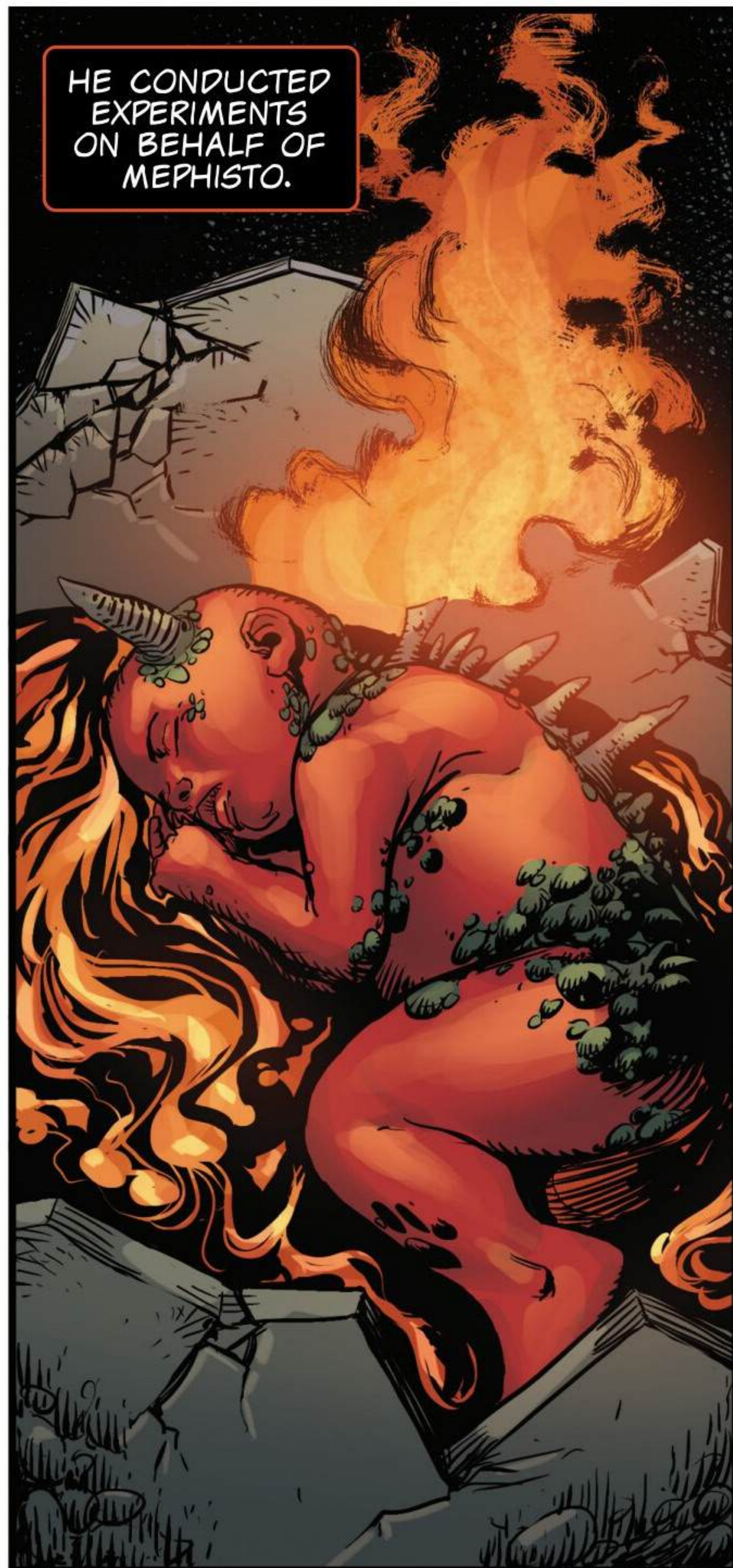
THE TITLES
OF OUR
WORLD DON'T
TRANSLATE
EXACTLY.



BUT SEVERITH'S
PURPOSE EXISTED
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
MAGICIAN AND
SCIENTIST.



HE CONDUCTED
EXPERIMENTS
ON BEHALF OF
MEPHISTO.



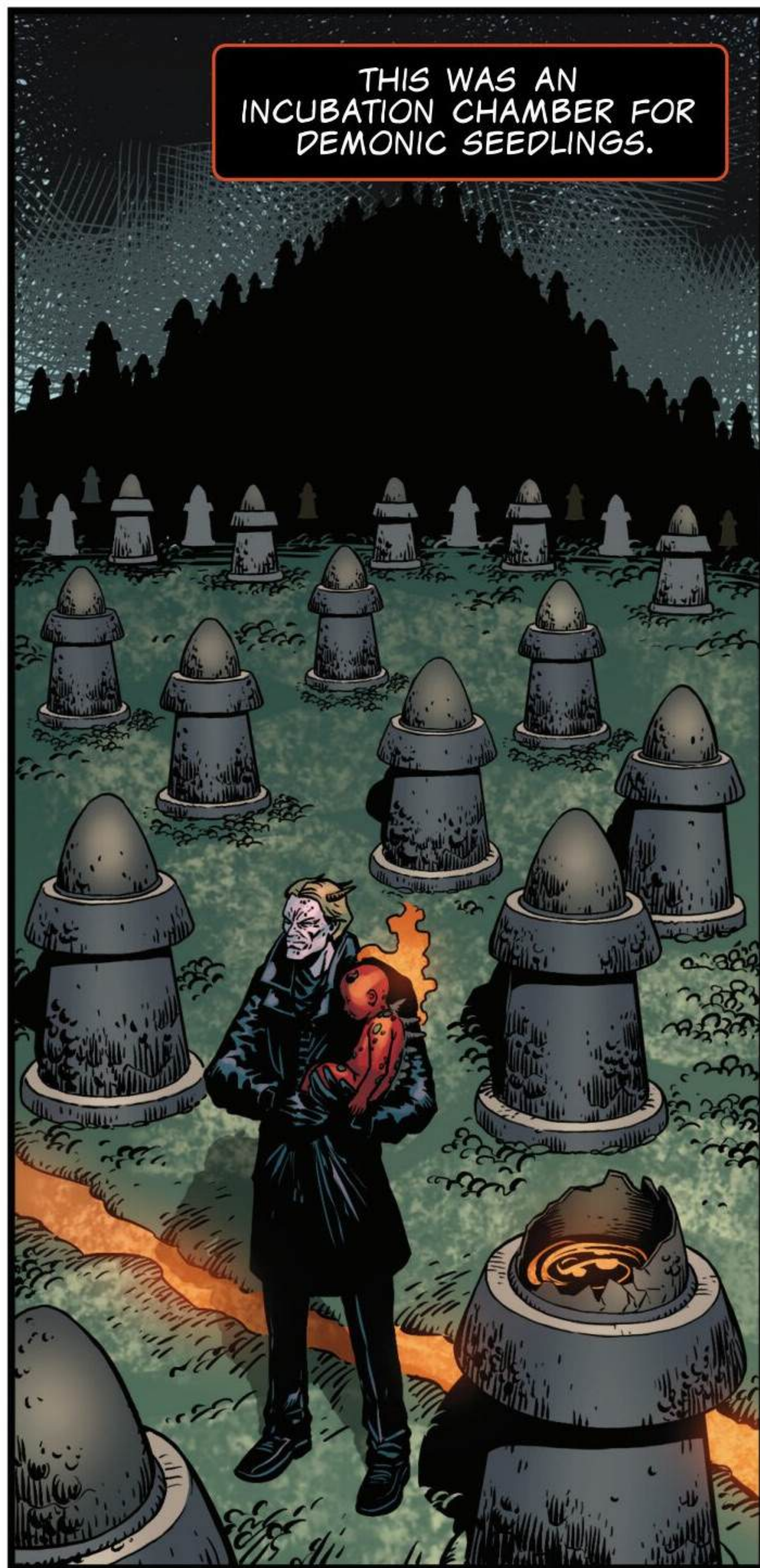
EXPERIMENTS
IN PAIN
AND POWER.



HIS SUBJECTS WERE
HUMAN, ANIMAL, VIRUS,
PLANT, DEMON AND
EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.

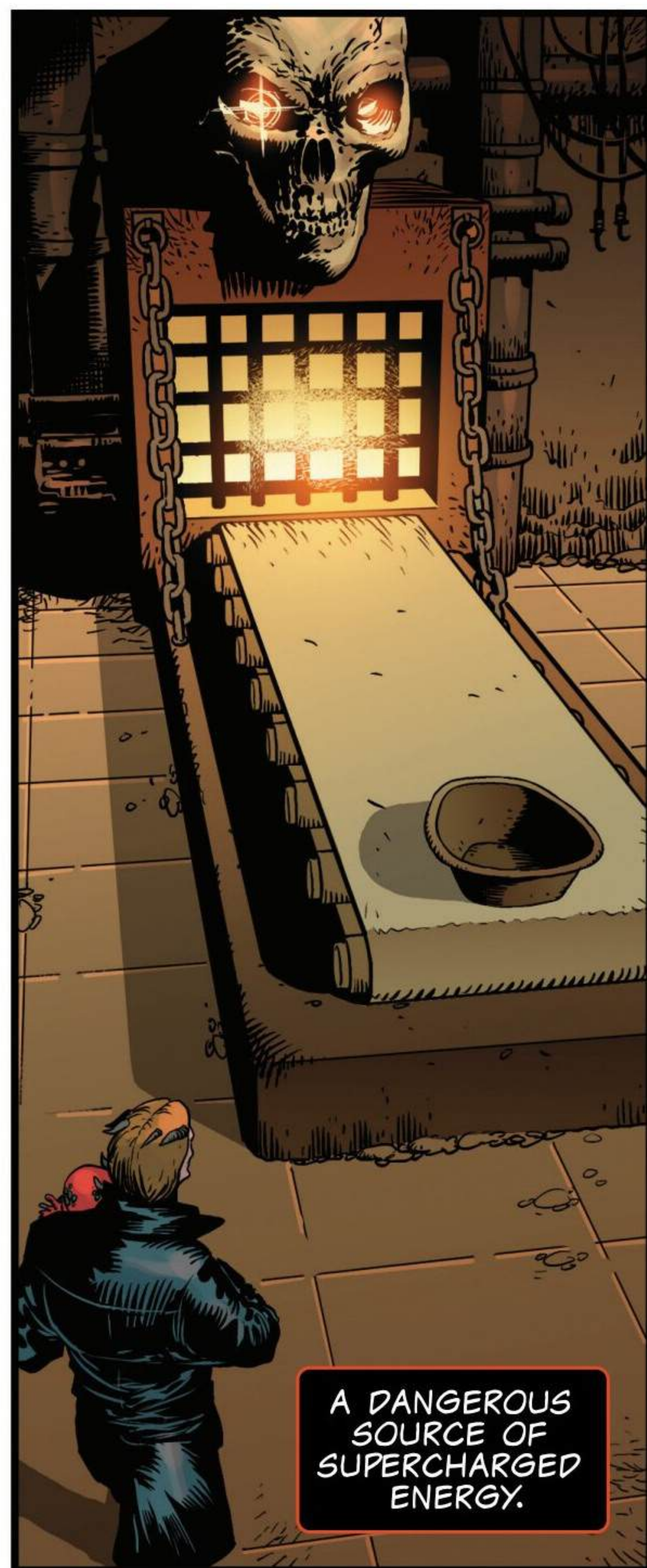


THIS WAS AN
INCUBATION CHAMBER FOR
DEMONIC SEEDLINGS.





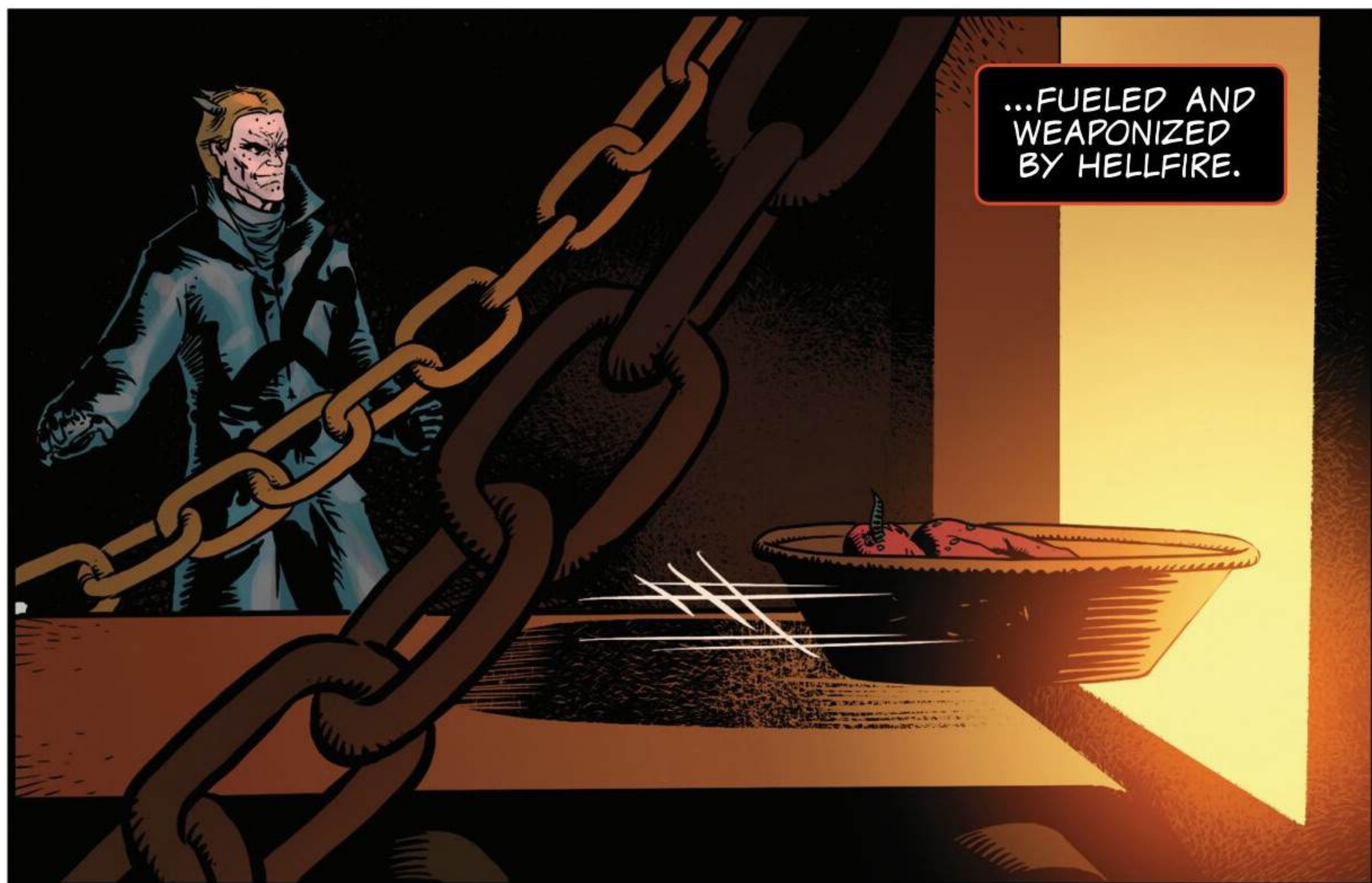
THE INFERNAL FURNACE WAS A SITE YOU COULD MAYBE COMPARE TO THE HADRON COLLIDER BENEATH GENEVA OR THE SCORPIUS MACHINE AT LOS ALAMOS.



A DANGEROUS SOURCE OF SUPERCHARGED ENERGY.



ONE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS INVOLVED BREEDING DEMONS WHO COULD ABSORB ITS FORCE...



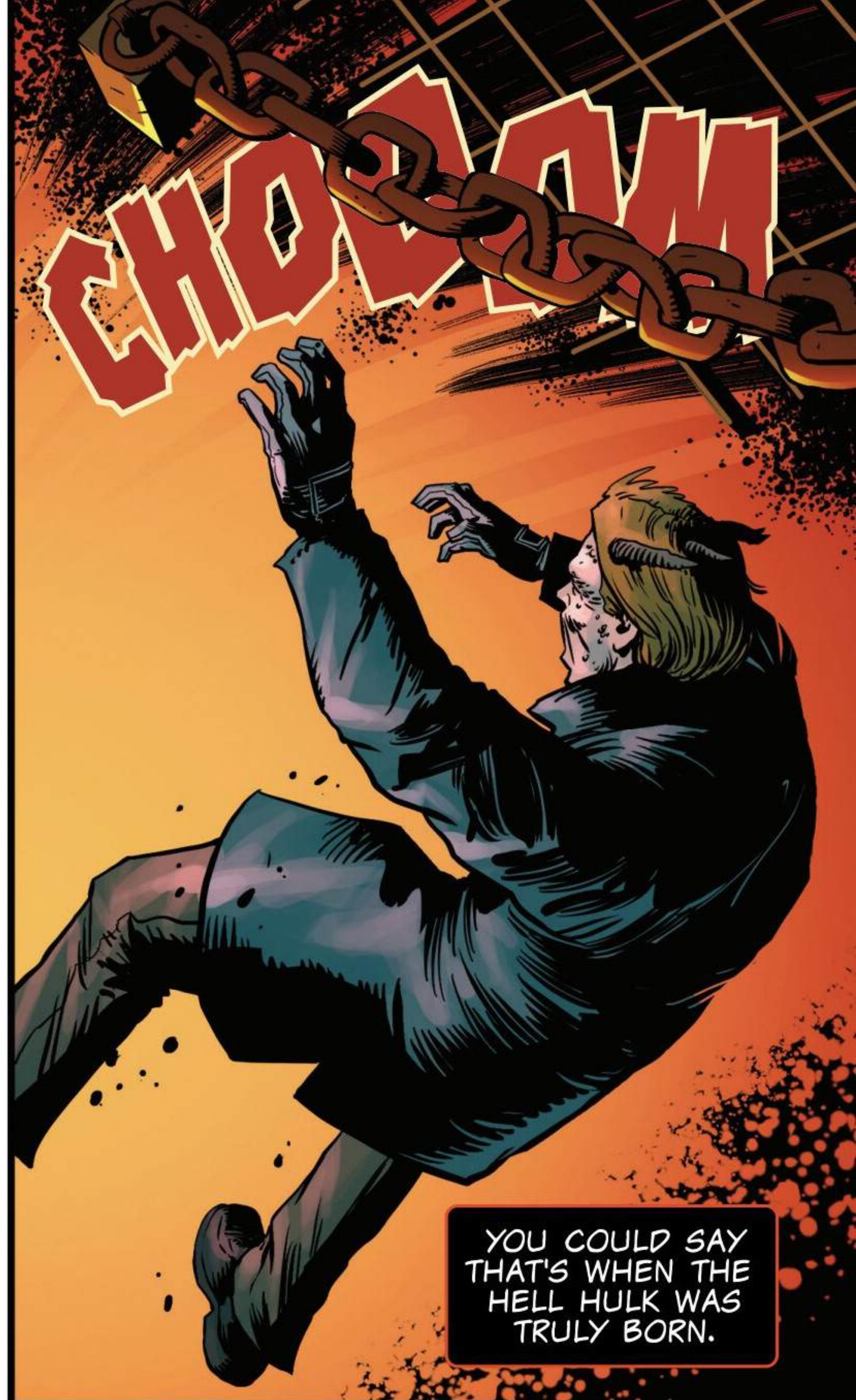
...FUELED AND WEAPONIZED BY HELLFIRE.



IT WAS A
SUCCESS.



A TERRIBLE
SUCCESS.



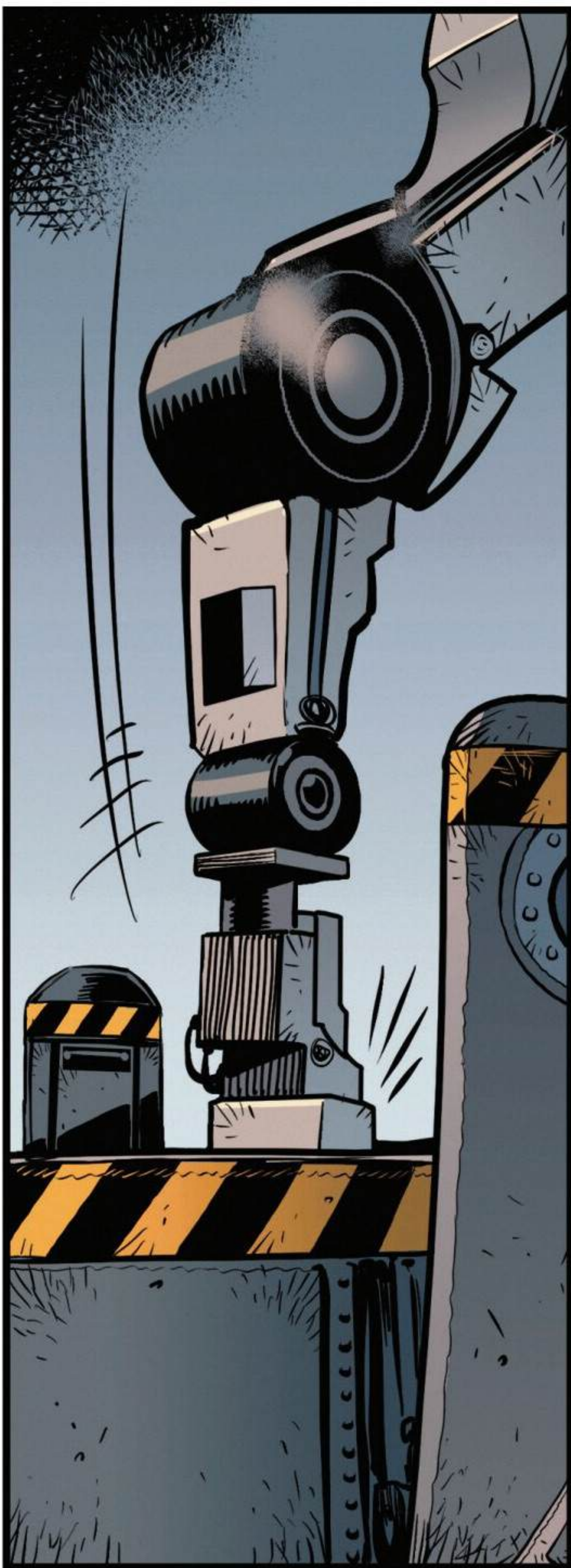
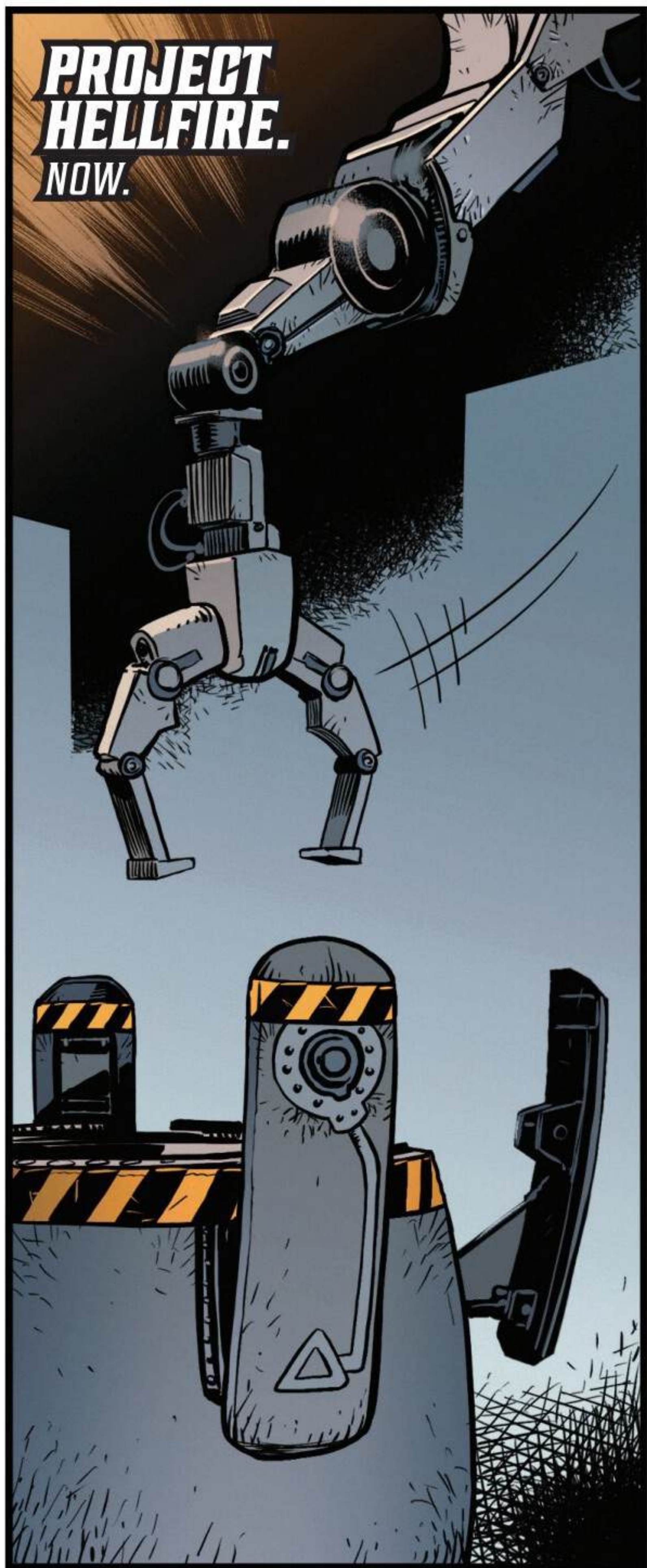
YOU COULD SAY
THAT'S WHEN THE
HELL HULK WAS
TRULY BORN.



BUT BIRTHS ARE
VULNERABLE AND
LIFE-AFFIRMING.



ERUPTED IS A
BETTER WORD
FOR SUCH AN
UNNATURAL
DISASTER.







THE THING
ABOUT
MAGIC IS...

...A SPELL IS
ONLY AS SMART
AS ITS AUTHOR.



WHATEVER
HEX WAS
WOVEN INTO
SEVERITH'S
STAFF...

...THE STAFF
THAT BECAME A
HUNGRY WORM
IN THIS GRAVE...



...IT WAS MEANT
TO REPRESS
HELLVERINE.



BUT IF **AKIHIRO**
IS ONE THING, IT'S
A SURVIVOR.



I'VE LEARNED
I'VE GOT TO BE
STRONG ENOUGH
ON MY OWN.

STRONGER
THAN THE
DEMON I'LL
ALWAYS
CARRY ON
MY BACK.



HELL.
THE RECENT
PAST.

IT WAS
FORGE-REFINED
RAGE, AND IT
WAS FURNACE-
BLASTED HATE.



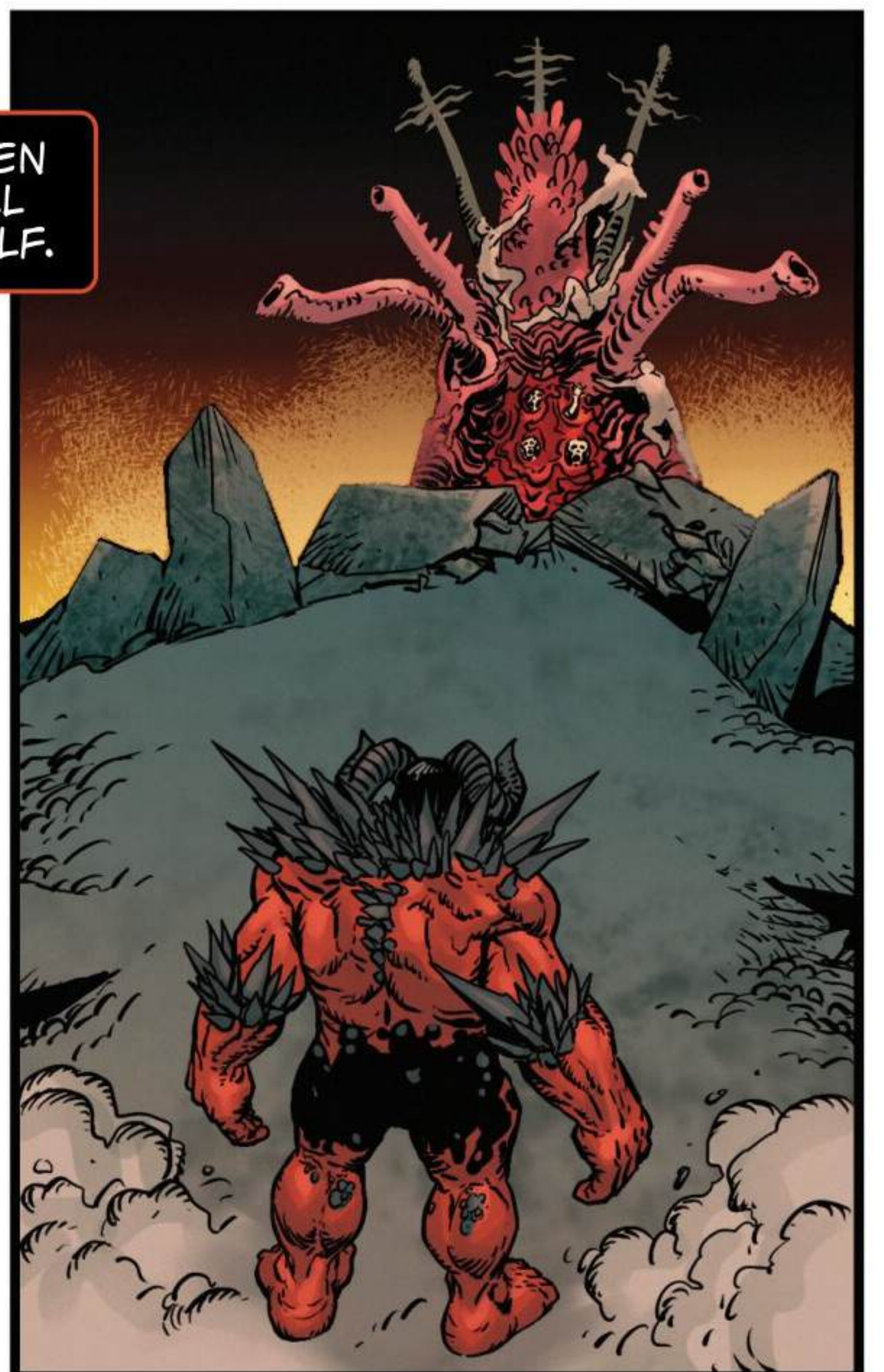
IT WAS
BEAUTIFUL,
AND IT WAS
TERRIBLE.



AND IT PROMISED
TO MAKE CHAOS AND
CARNAGE AND RUIN
OUT OF ANYTHING
IT ENCOUNTERED...



...EVEN
HELL
ITSELF.





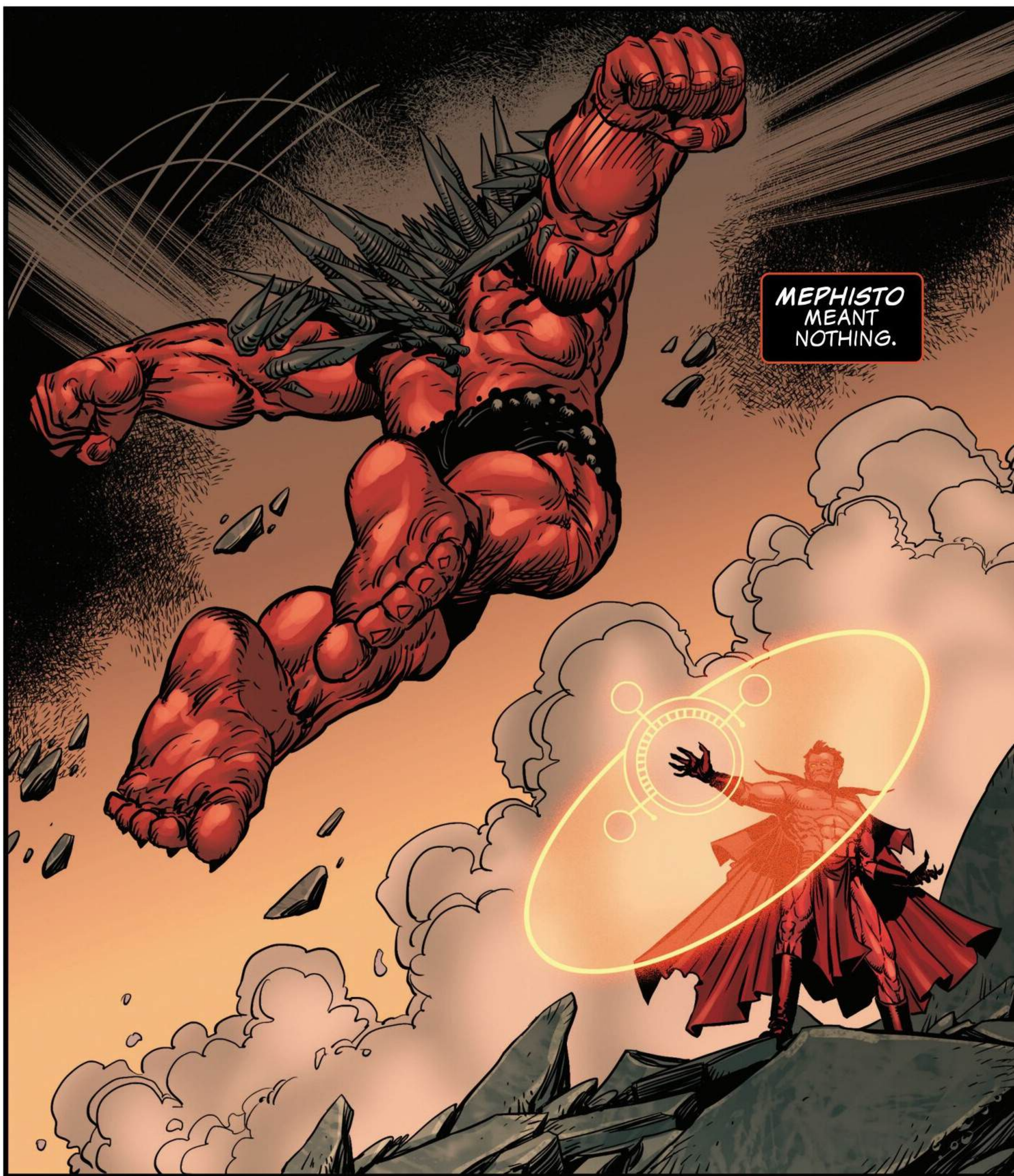
THE DEMON BAGRA-GHUL
HAD BUILT MONUMENTS
TO CELEBRATE MEPHISTO.

KRRBBML

SMASH



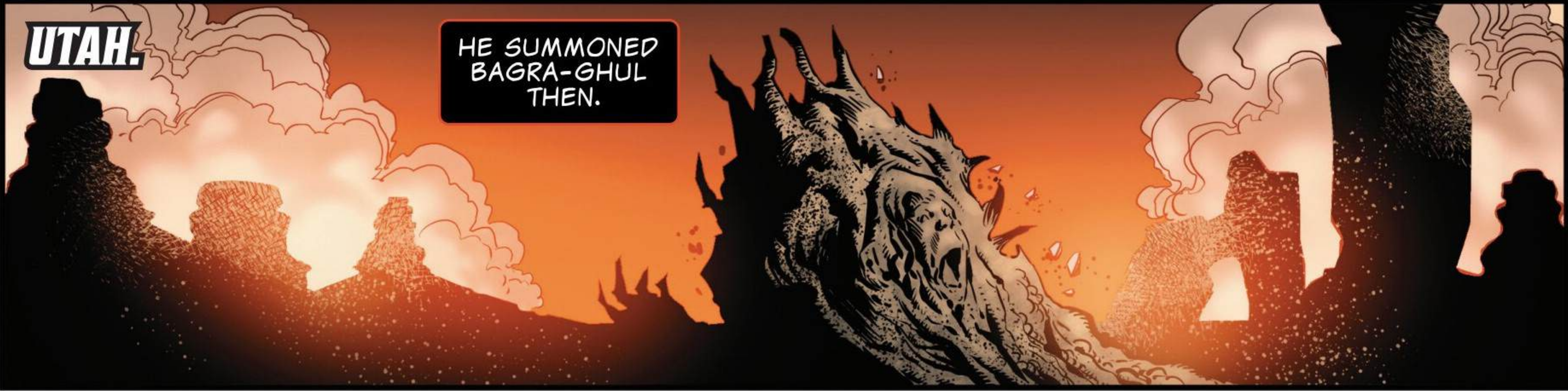
BUT TO
THE HELL
HULK, A
MONUMENT
MEANT
NOTHING.



MEPHISTO
MEANT
NOTHING.



RAGE KNOWS
NO BOUNDARIES
OR HIERARCHIES.



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. NOW.

BAGRA-GHUL
ESCAPED
THEN, ONLY
TO BE
TRAPPED
INSIDE ME
NOW.

I HAVE ESCAPED
THE GRAVE BEFORE,
ONLY TO FIND MYSELF
BURIED IN ANOTHER.

...GIVING WAY
TO PAIN AND
PUNISHMENT...

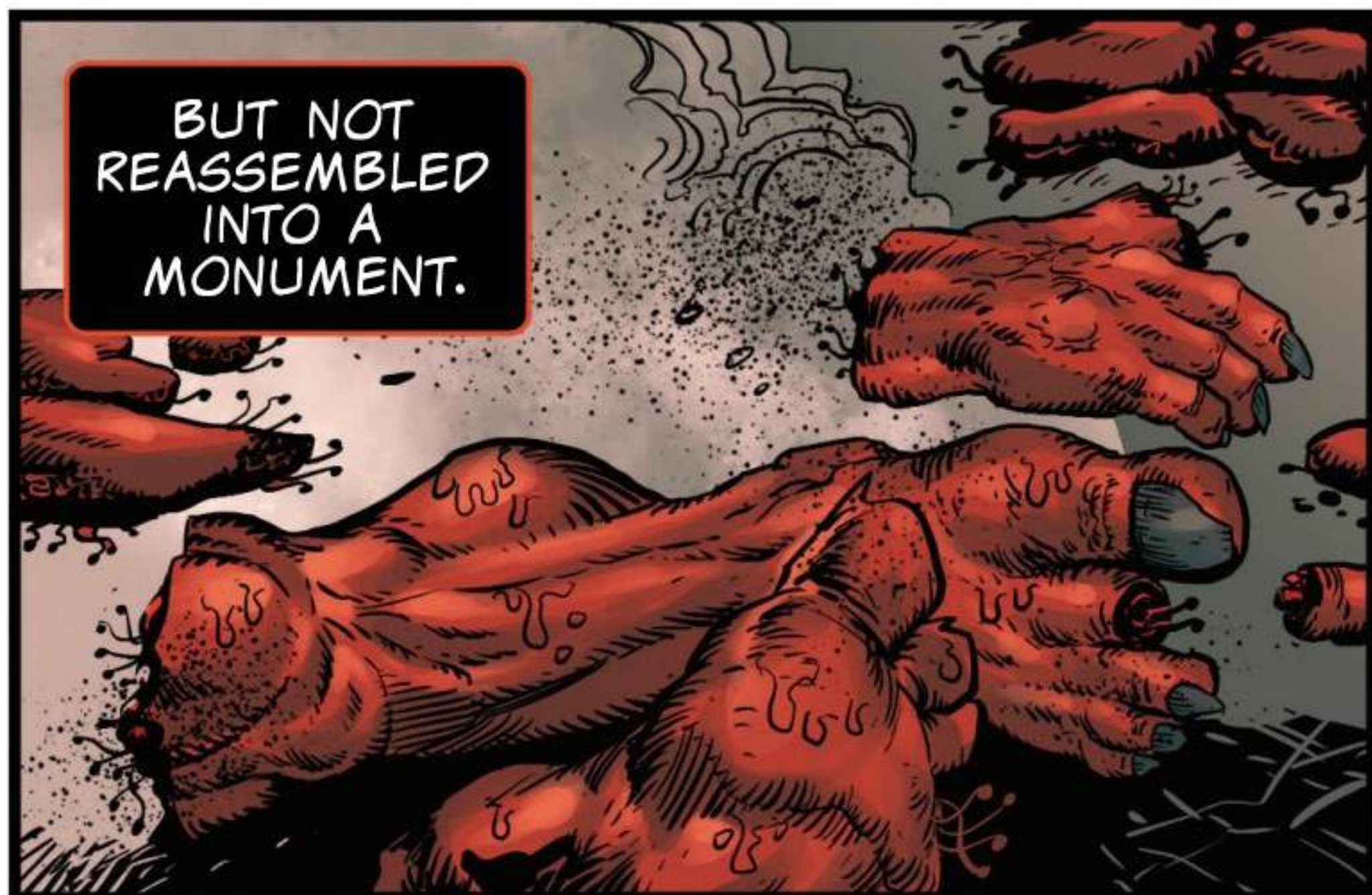
THE
ILLUSION OF
FREEDOM...

MAYBE
THAT'S THE
ONE TRUE
HELL.

...OVER
AND OVER
AND OVER.



THE
HELL HULK
WAS TORN
ASUNDER.



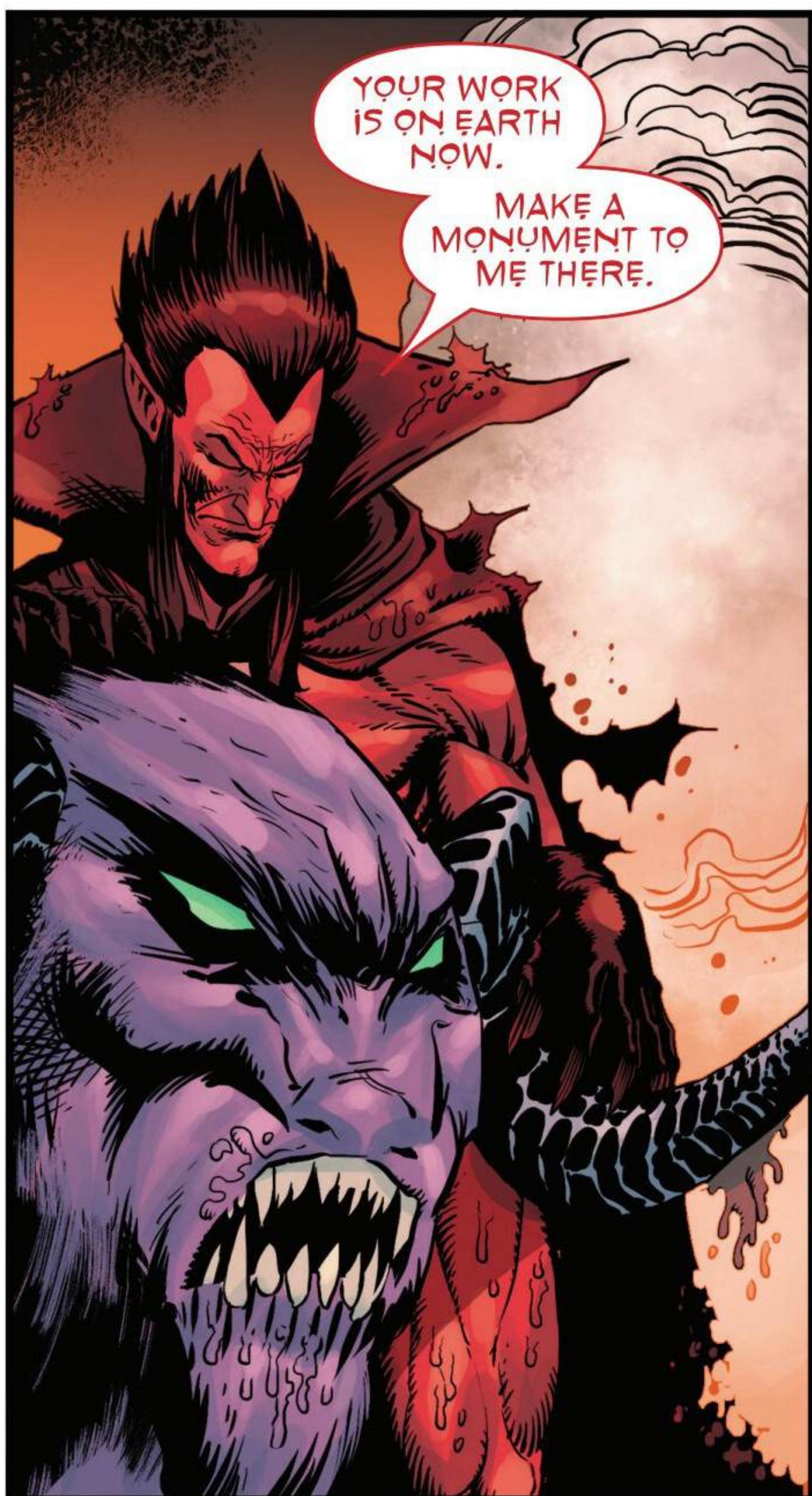
BUT NOT
REASSEMBLED
INTO A
MONUMENT.



NOT
YET.



BECAUSE
MEPHISTO HAD
OTHER PLANS.



YOUR WORK
IS ON EARTH
NOW.

MAKE A
MONUMENT TO
ME THERE.

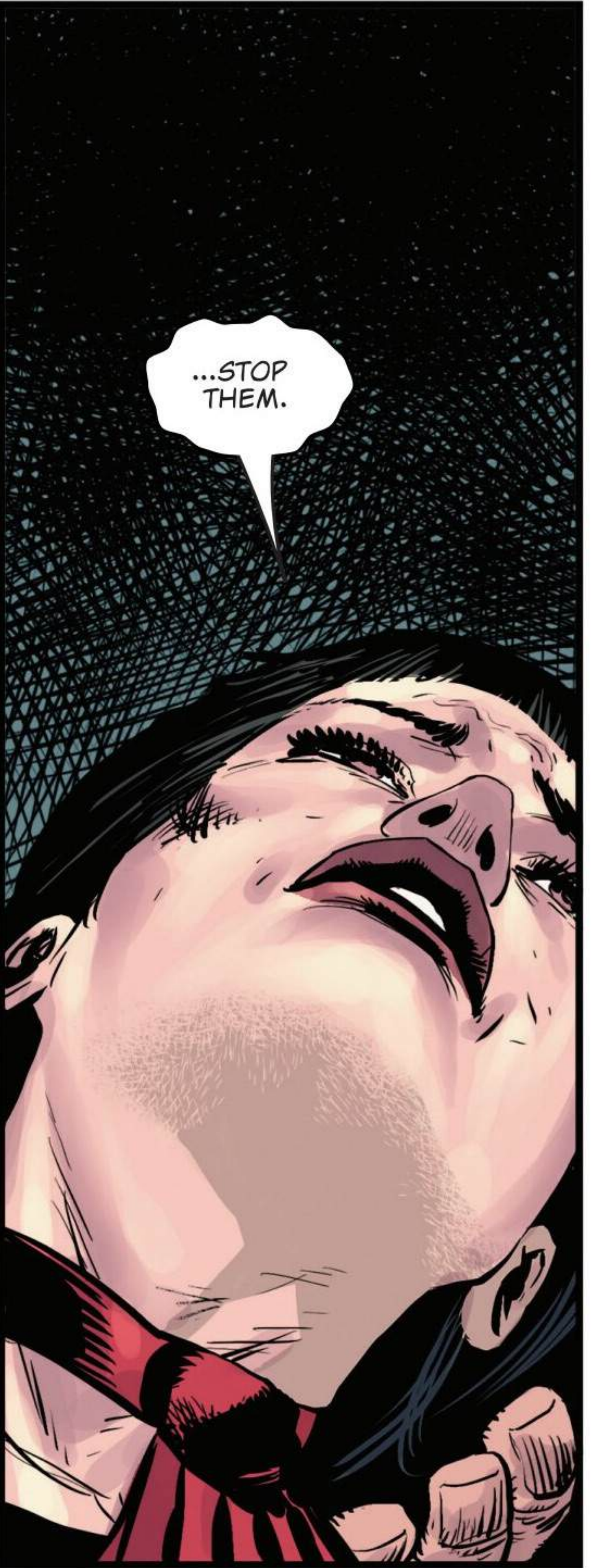
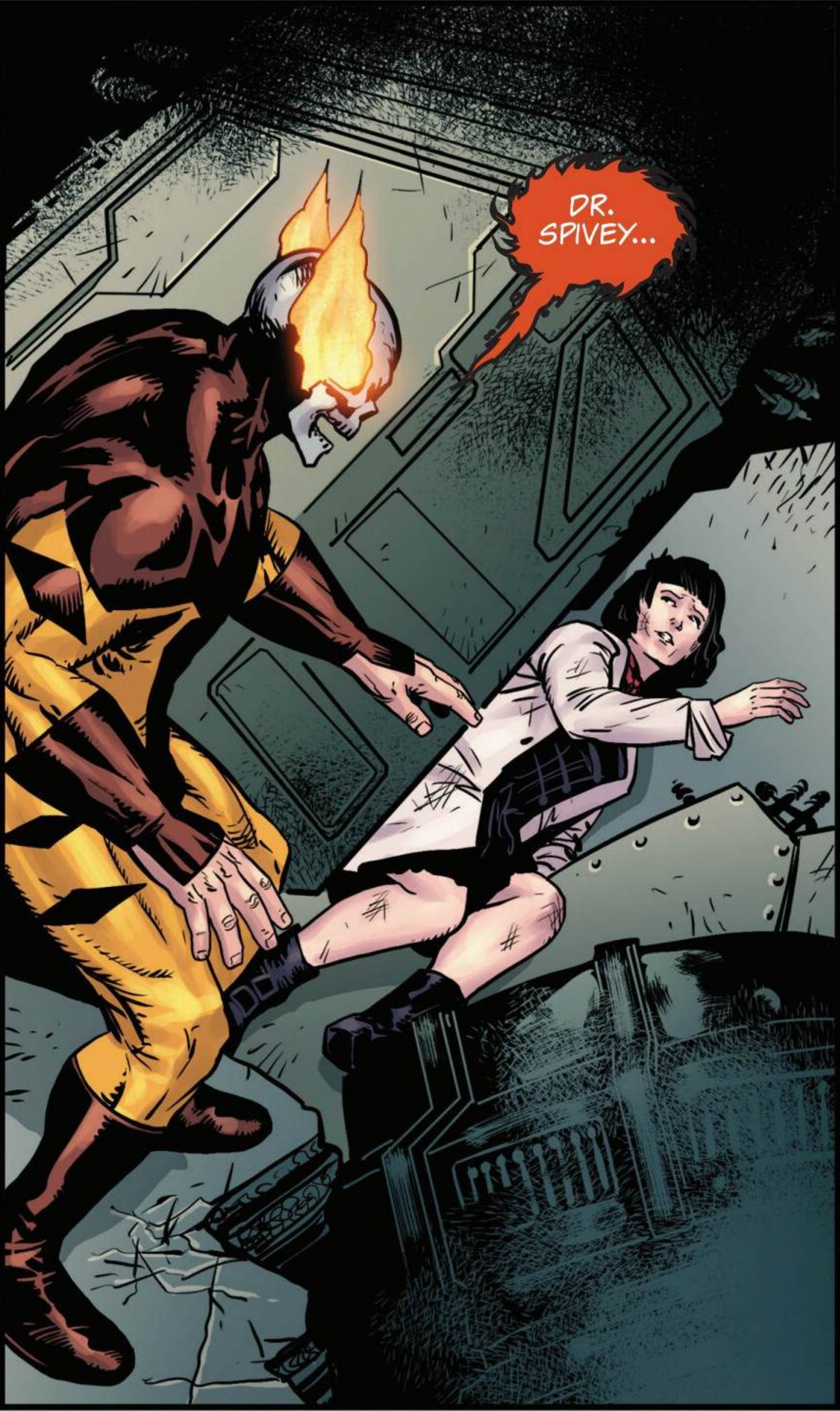


WHAT'S
HAPPENED?



WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?







I'M NO
KIND OF
HERO.

BUT I'M
TRYING NOT
TO BE THE
BAD GUY.



I COULDN'T
SAVE MYSELF
FROM HELL...

FWOOSH



...BUT IF I CAN
SPARE A FEW
OTHERS FROM
ITS TORMENTS...



...MAYBE I CAN
MAKE UP FOR
ALL THE PAIN
I'VE CAUSED
IN THIS WORLD.



DC METRO.

THE
PROBLEM
IS...



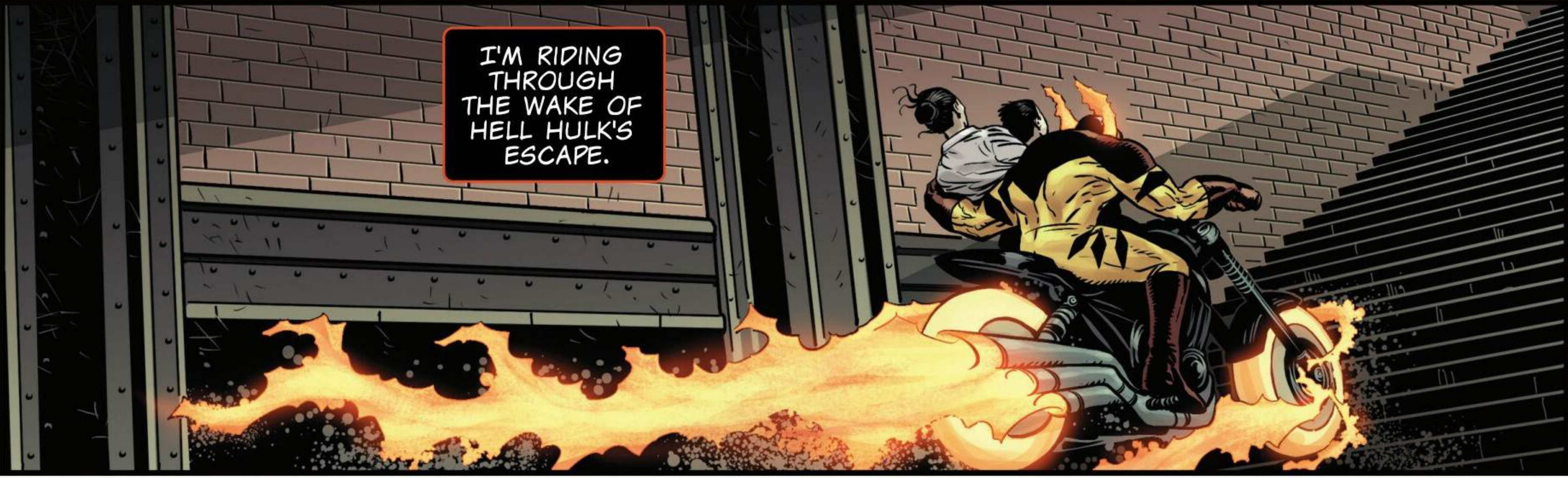
...MY INFERNAL
SENSE FEELS
LIKE IT'S GONE
HAYWIRE.



EVIL IS
EVERYWHERE.



PAIN IS
EVERYWHERE.



I'M RIDING
THROUGH
THE WAKE OF
HELL HULK'S
ESCAPE.

**DOWNTOWN
DC.**

ITS RAGE IS
CONTAGIOUS.

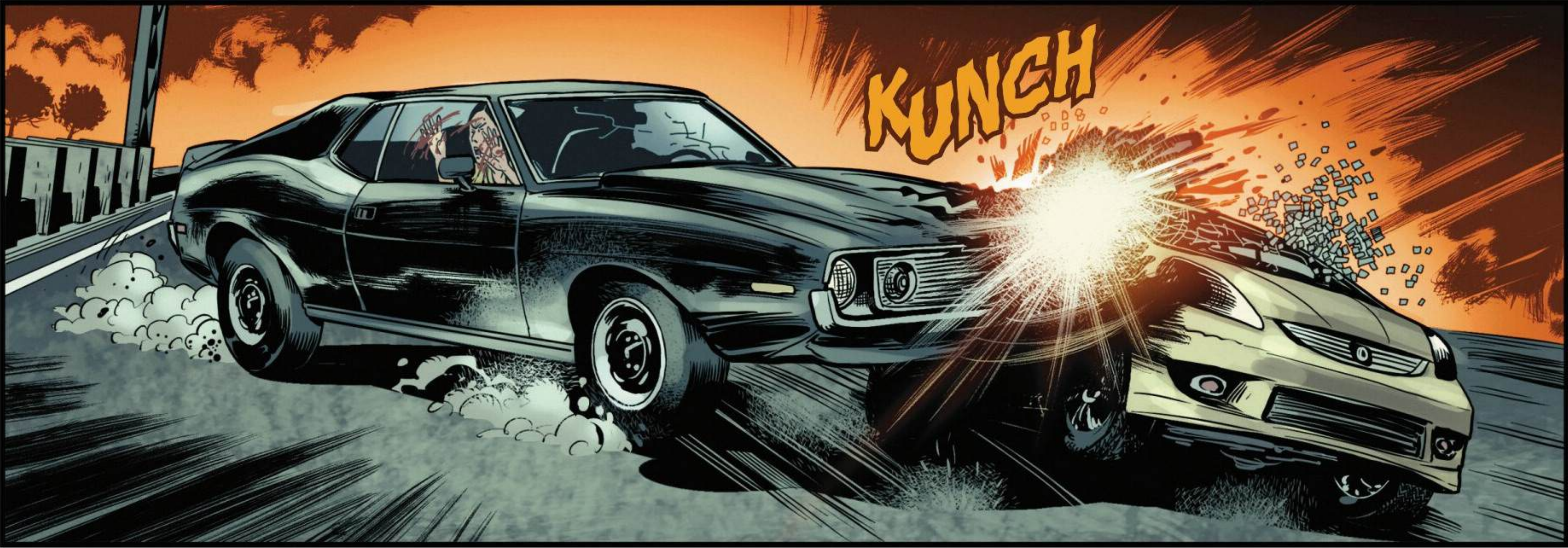
SPISH

THE
METRO IS A
WAR ZONE.

THERE ARE
TOO MANY
TO SAVE.

SO I
DO WHAT
I CAN.

WHICH WILL
NEVER BE
ENOUGH.



I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
HELL HULK IS.

AND I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
SEVERITH
IS GOING.

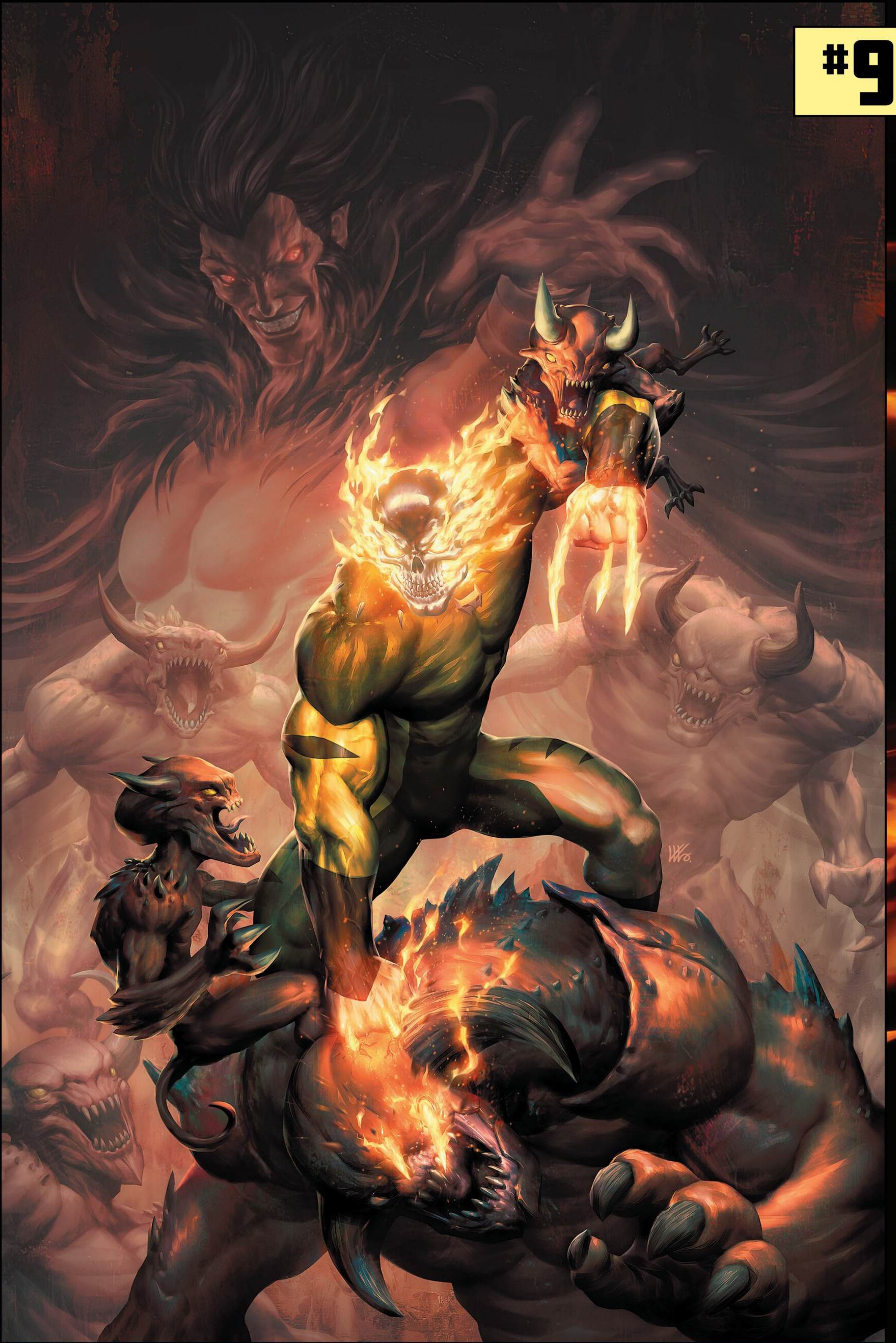


I ONLY
KNOW THAT
WHATEVER
HIS PLAN IS...

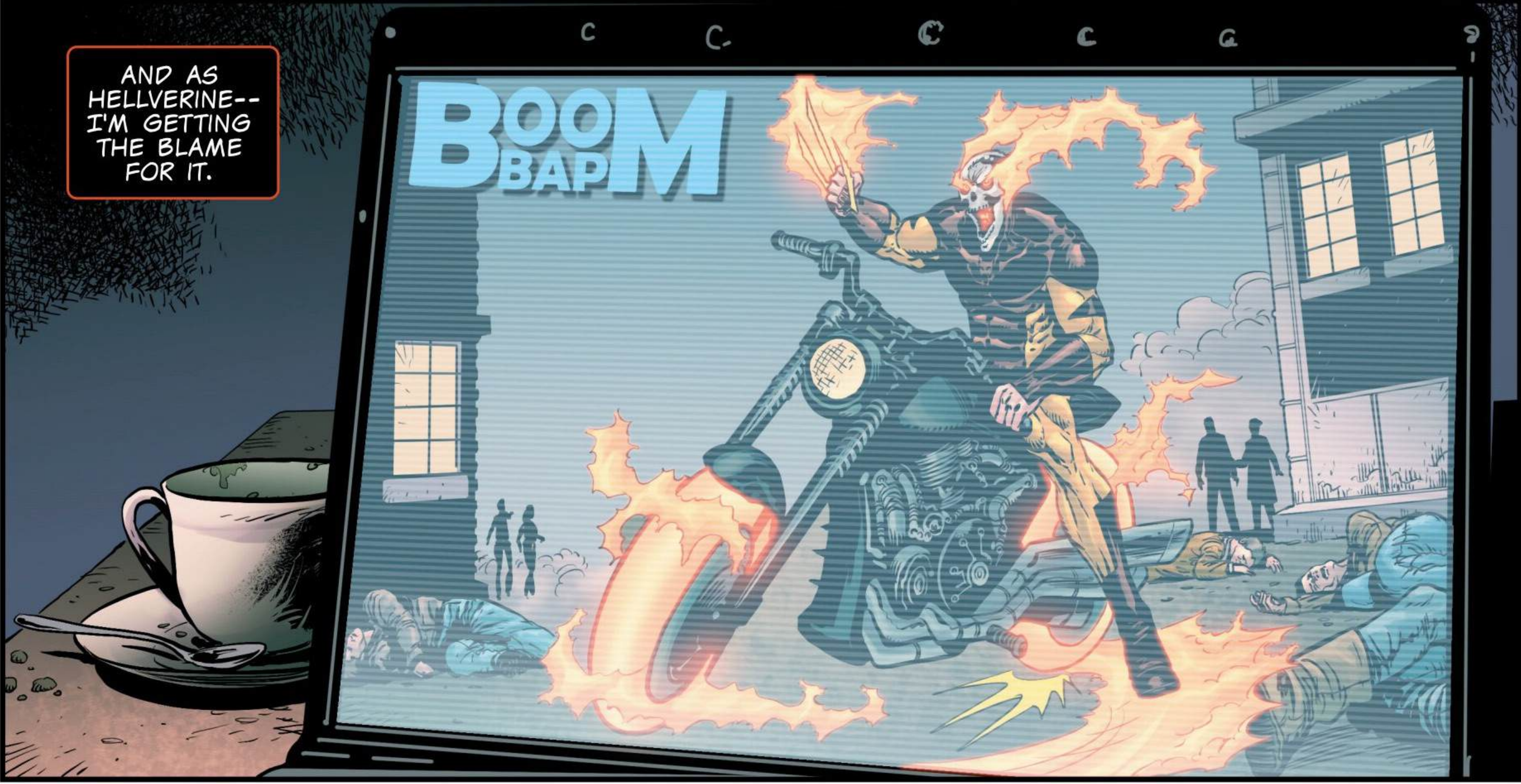
...HE'S
HELL-BENT ON
REVENGE...

...AND
EVERY MINUTE
THEY ELUDE
ME, THE RAGE
OF HELL HULK
INTENSIFIES.





"HELL BENT"





THE PENTAGON
HAD QUESTIONS.

DAYS OF ENDLESS
QUESTIONS FOR
ME AND DR. SPIVEY.



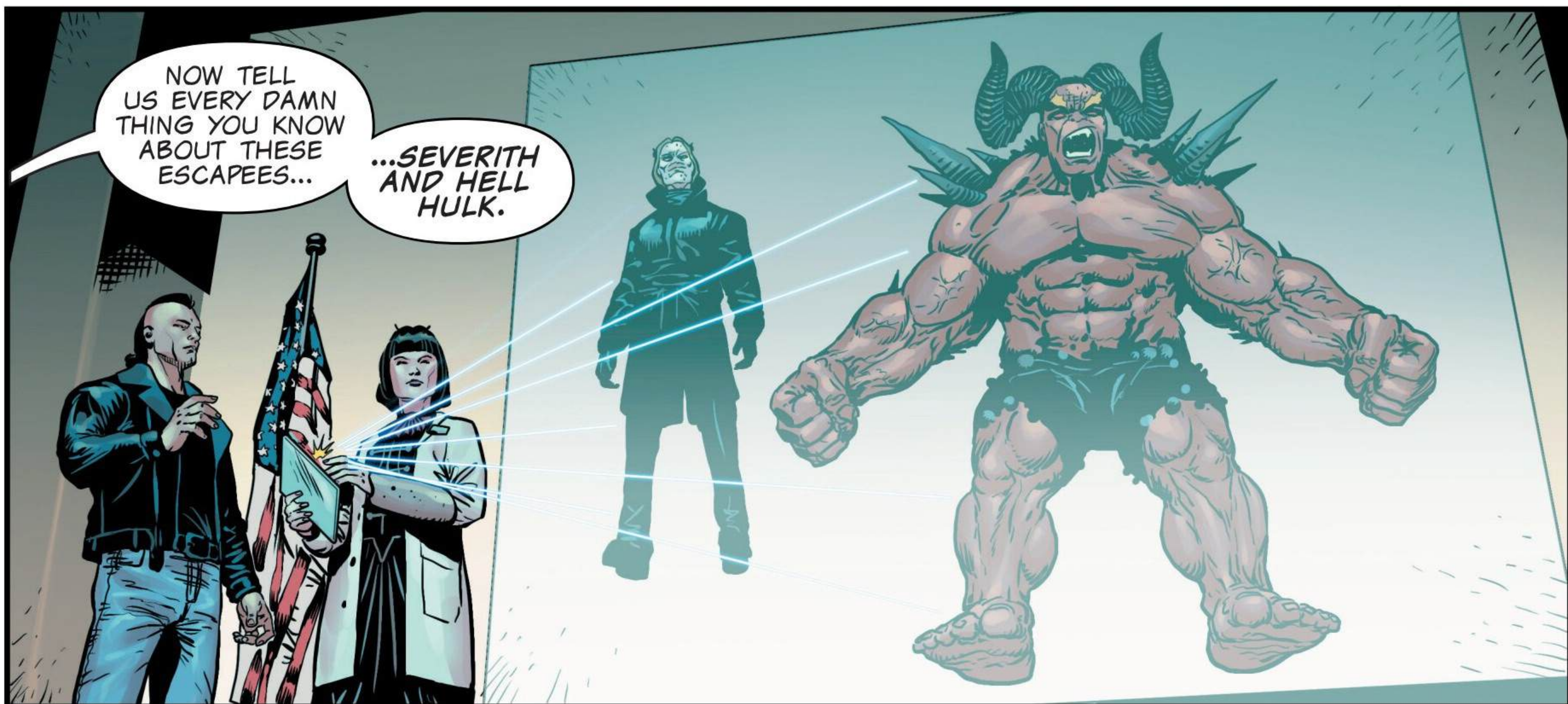
ONE MORE
@#\$%UP, AND
WE WILL SHUTTER
PROJECT
HELLFIRE!

LOCK THE
DOOR, TURN OFF THE
LIGHTS, FLIP OVER THE
CLOSED SIGN. YOU
UNDERSTAND?



YOU ARE
ONLY STILL
OPERATIONAL
BECAUSE THE
PRESS AND PUBLIC
DON'T KNOW
WHO TO
BLAME!

BUT
I SURE
AS HELL
DO!



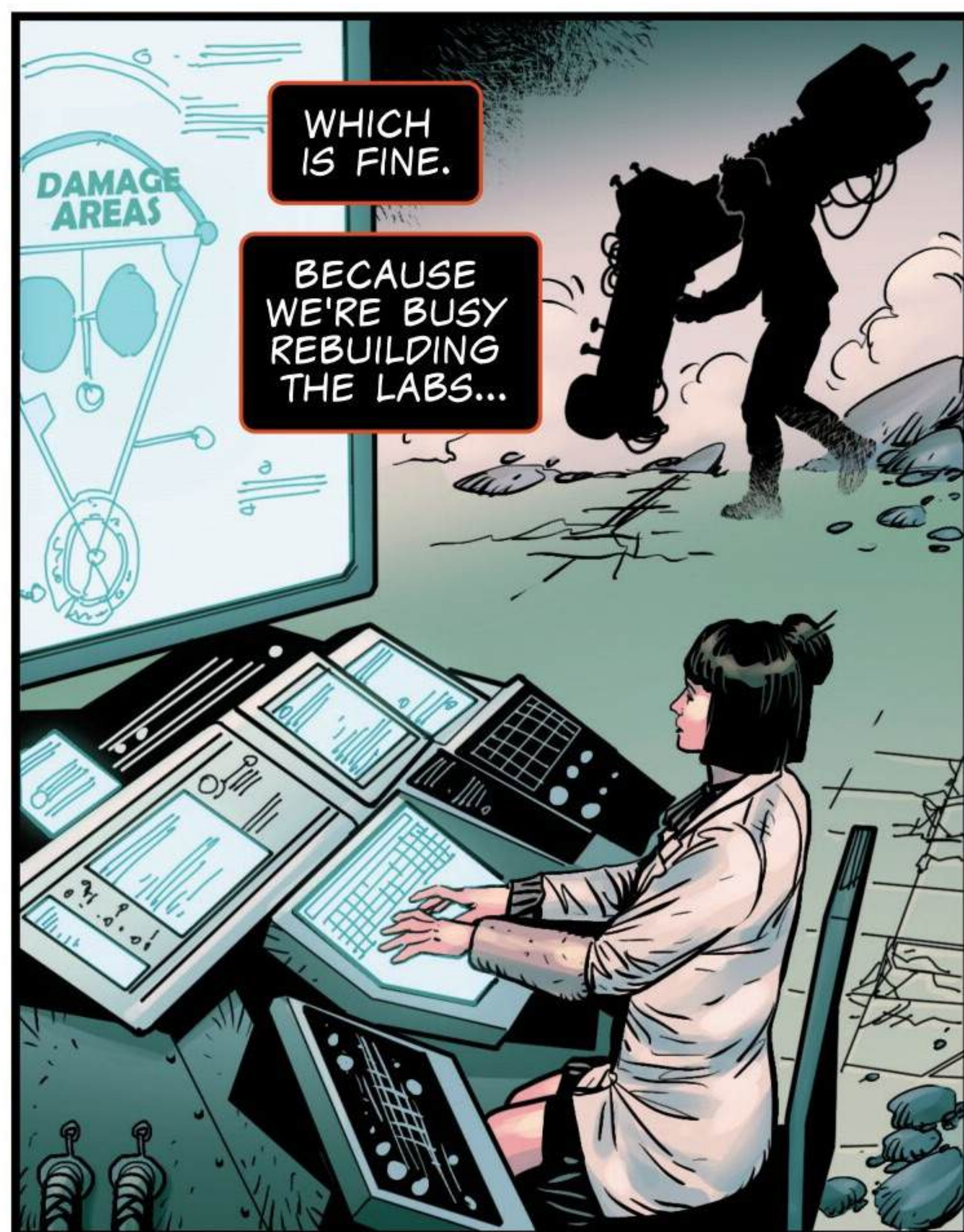
NOW TELL
US EVERY DAMN
THING YOU KNOW
ABOUT THESE
ESCAPEES...

...SEVERITH
AND HELL
HULK.



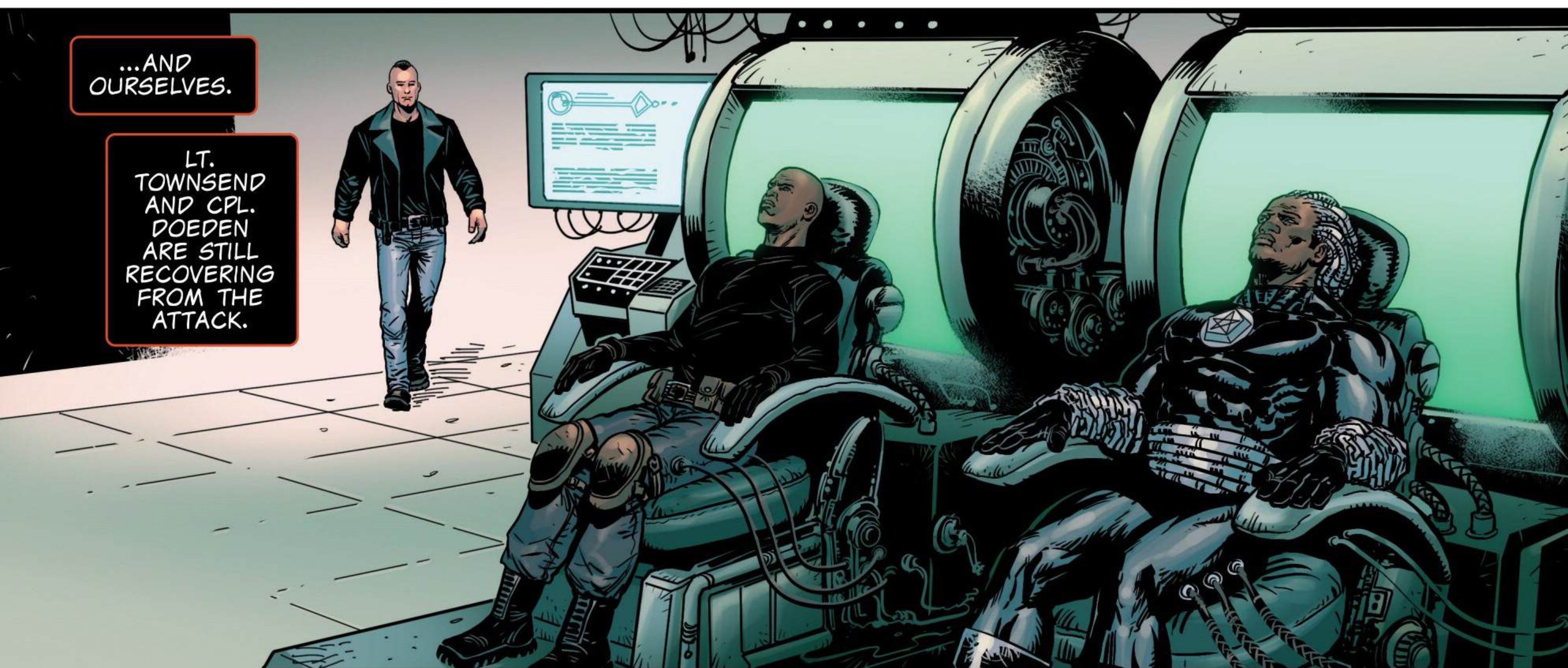
I'M UNDER ORDERS TO REMAIN UNDERGROUND.

NO MORE FIELD OPS UNTIL THE AIR CLEARS.



WHICH IS FINE.

BECAUSE WE'RE BUSY REBUILDING THE LABS...



...AND OURSELVES.

LT. TOWNSEND AND CPL. DOEDEN ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM THE ATTACK.



I'M SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH I CARE.

NORMALLY, I'M THE NOMAD WHO MOVES ON WHEN THINGS GET MESSY.



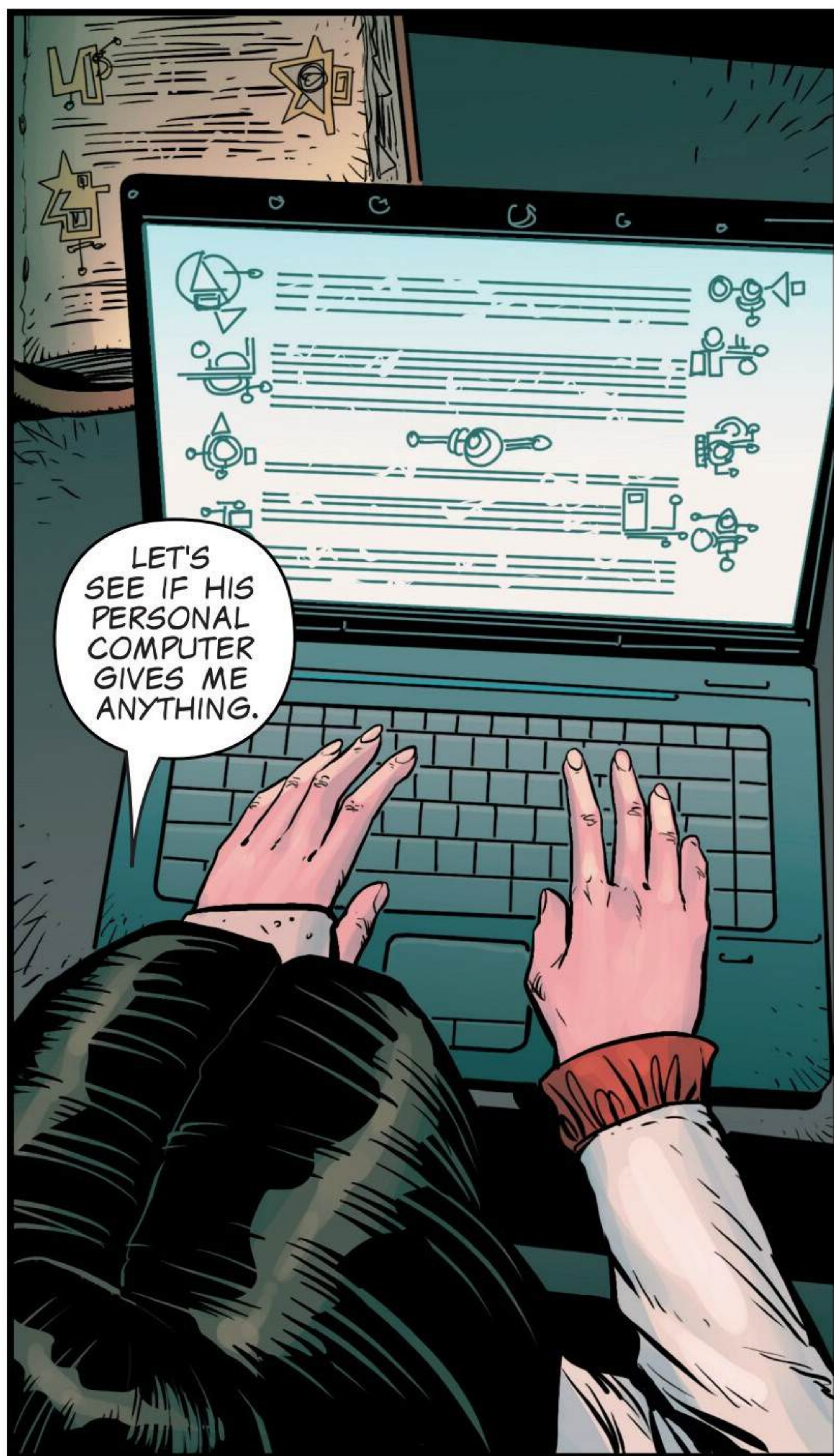
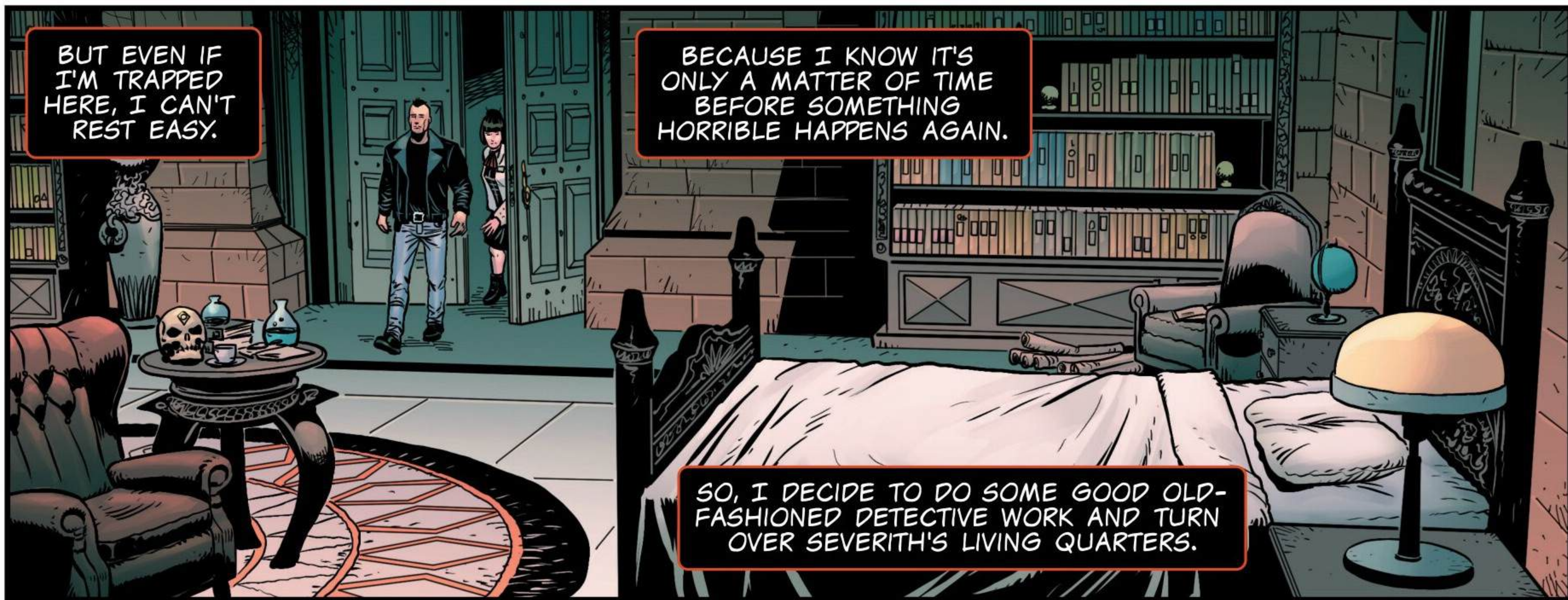
BUT I'M ACTUALLY INVESTED IN CLEANING UP THE WRECKAGE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE FUTURE.

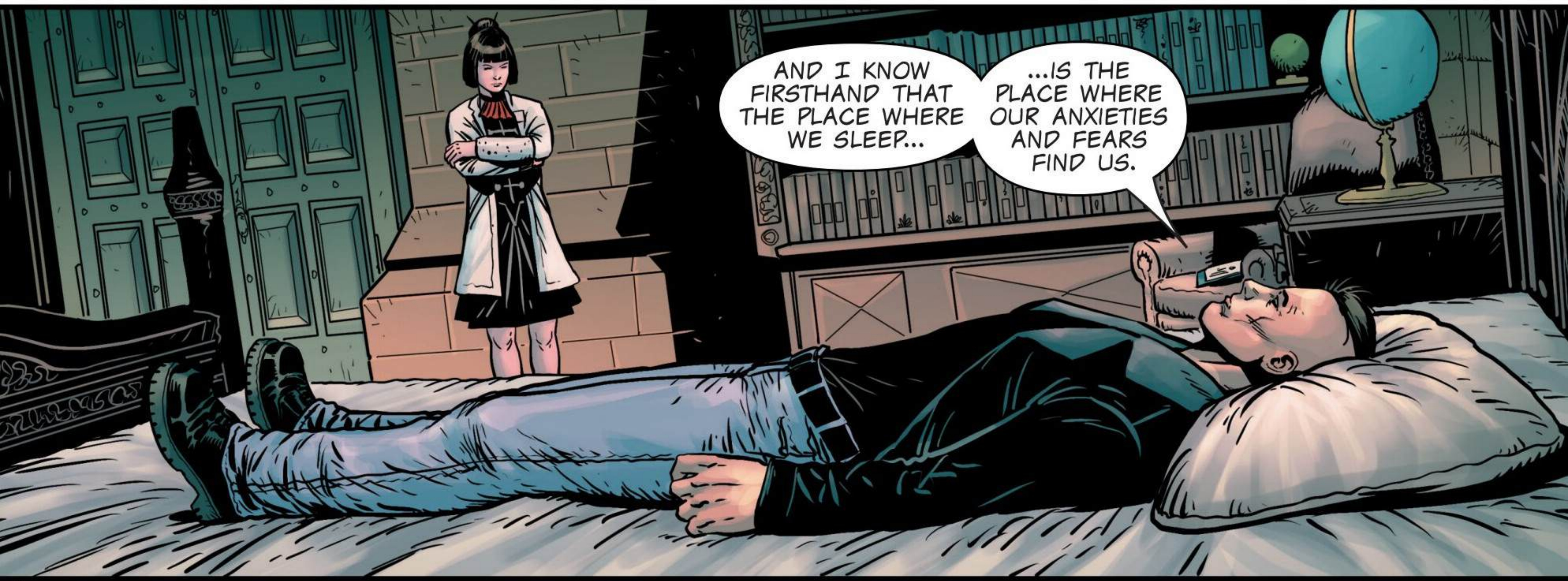
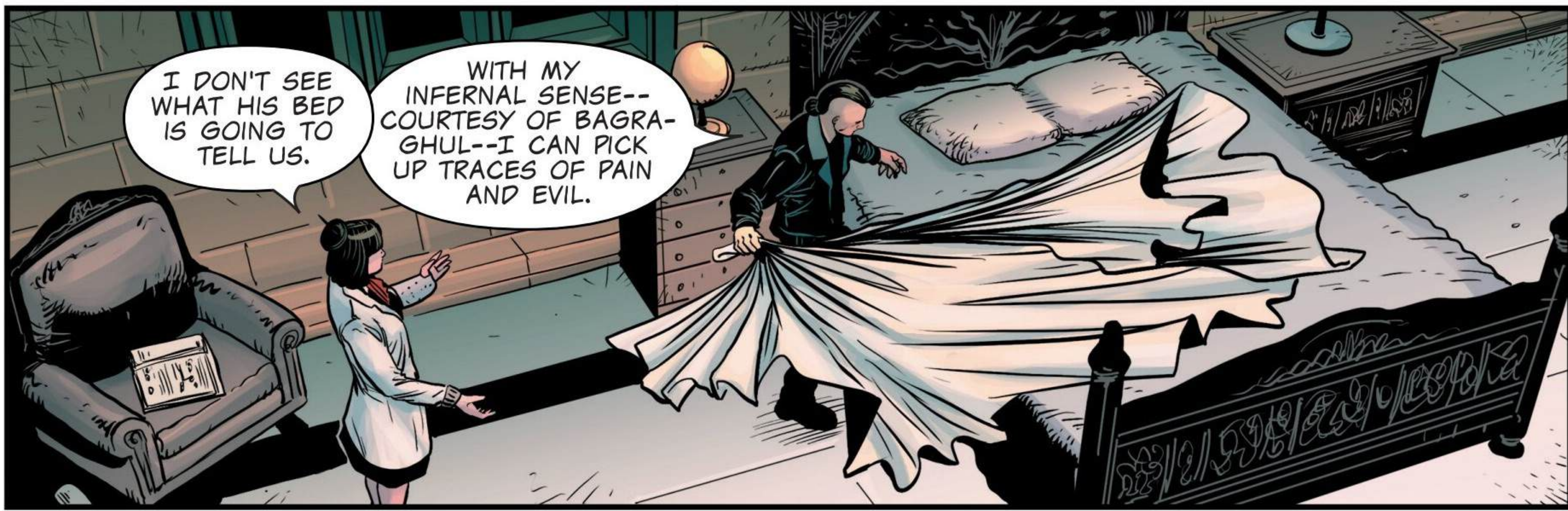
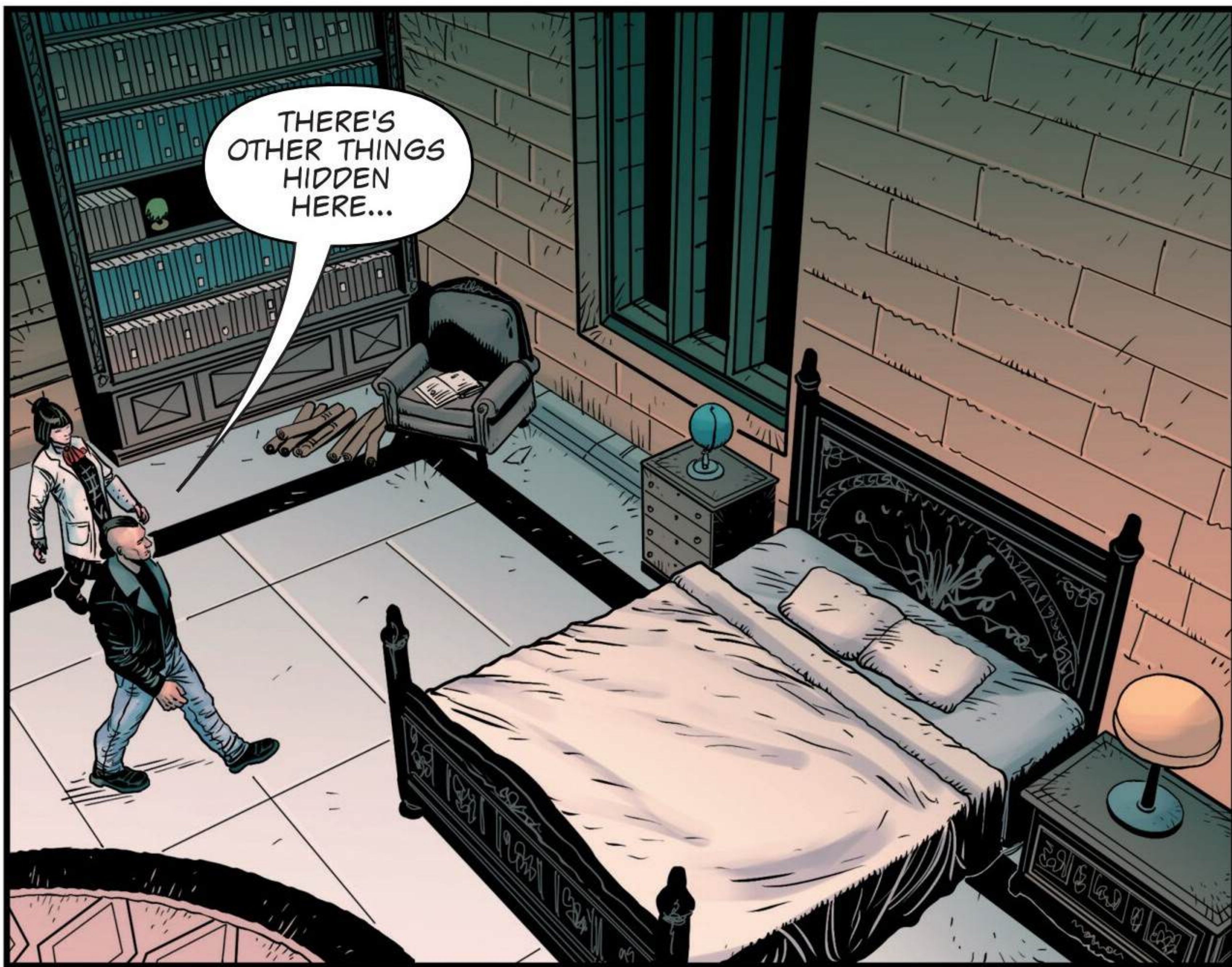


BUT THIS HAS BECOME A KIND OF HOME. ONE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE.

THAT'S A GOOD BUT UNFAMILIAR FEELING.

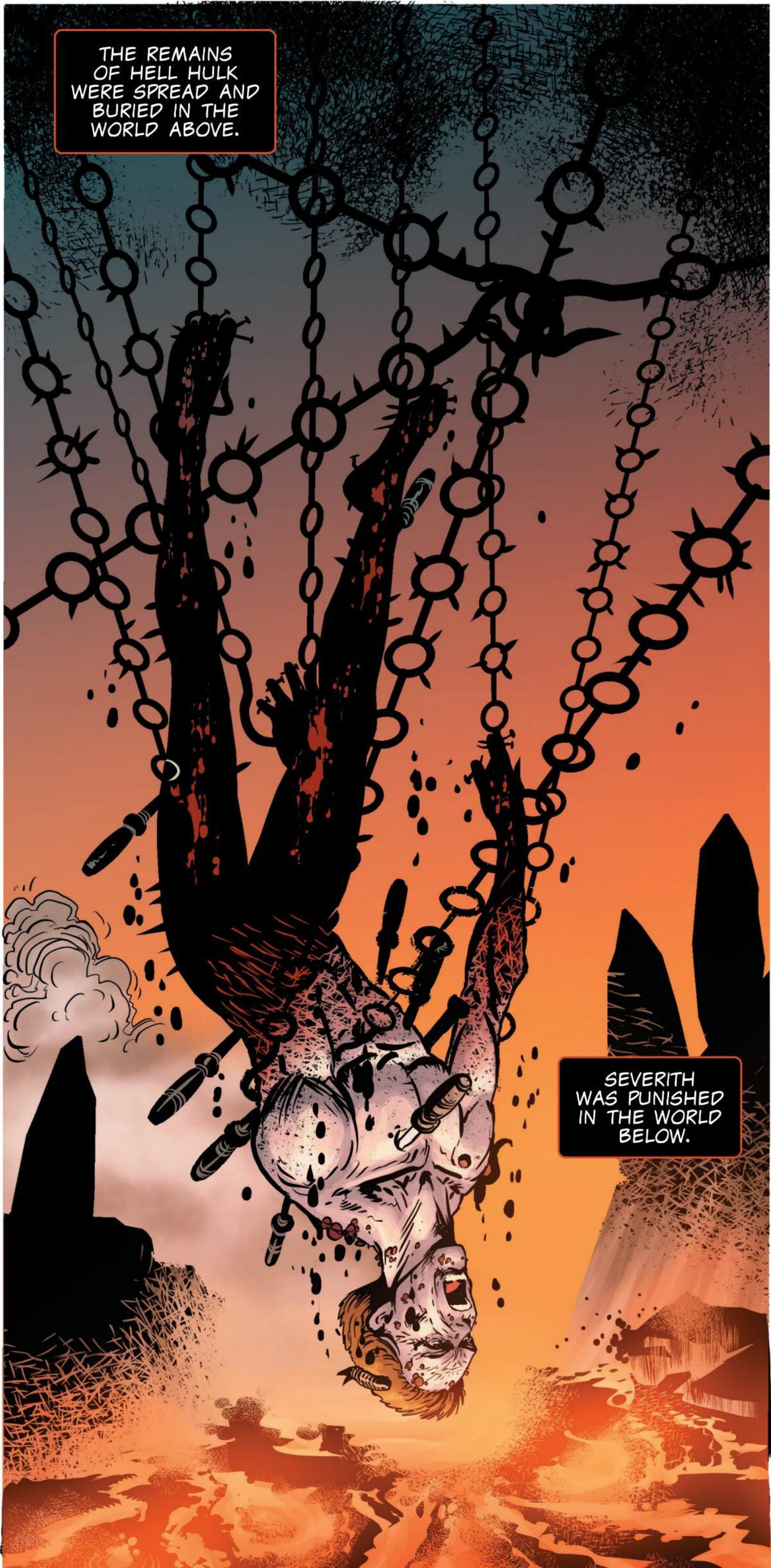








THE RESIDUE
OF HIS
SUFFERING...
IT'S HERE.



THE REMAINS
OF HELL HULK
WERE SPREAD AND
BURIED IN THE
WORLD ABOVE.

SEVERITH
WAS PUNISHED
IN THE WORLD
BELOW.



AND
MEPHISTO
SMILED.



**ARLINGTON
NATIONAL
CEMETERY.**

THE PENTAGON
WANTS ME TO STAY
BURIED, BUT I
FIGURE A GRAVEYARD
IS A GOOD
COMPROMISE.

I NEED
TO THINK. I
NEED SOME
FRESH AIR.

I
NEED...

...TO BE
ALONE.

THOUGHT
THAT WAS
YOU.

AURORA...

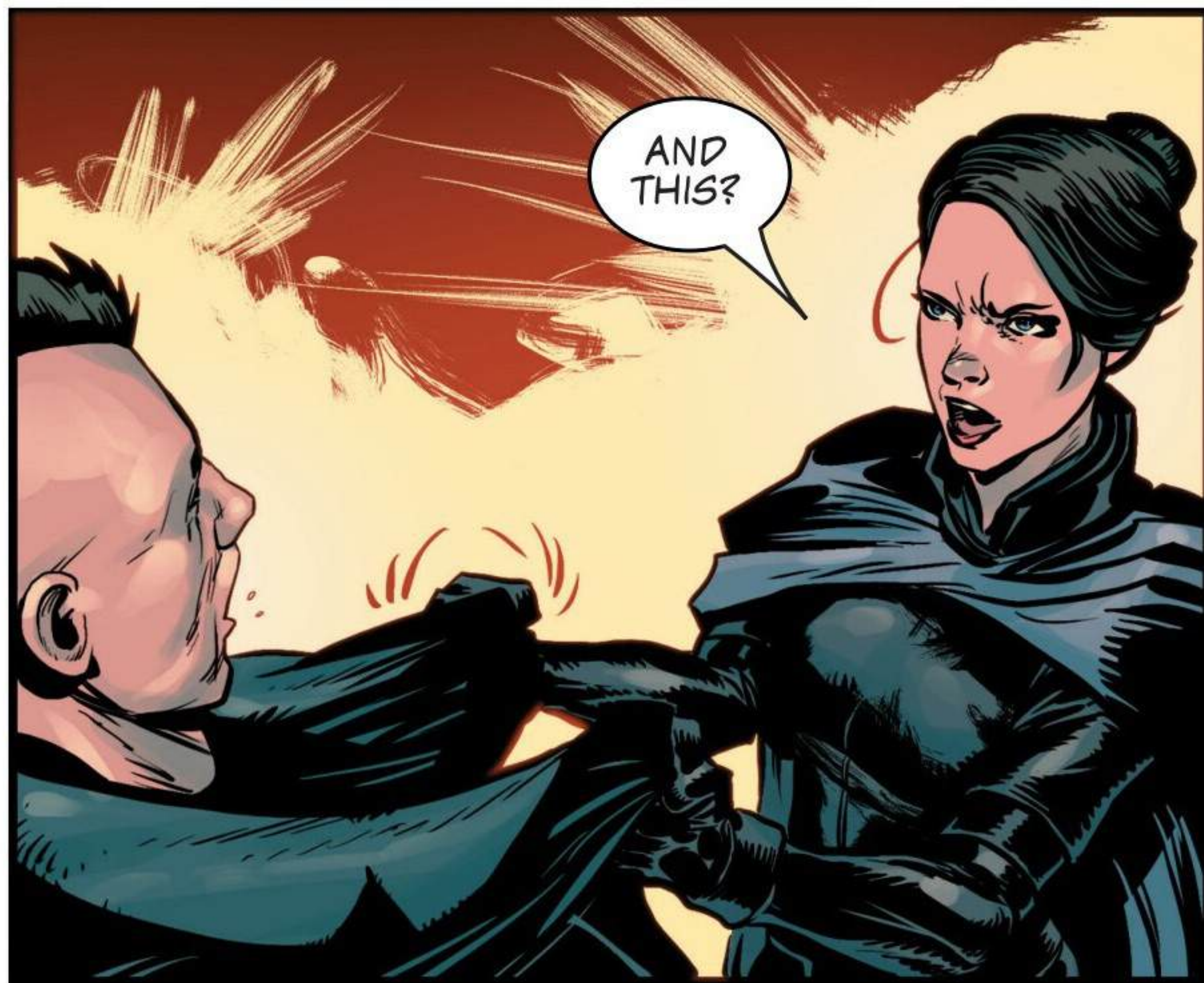
YOUR
PHOTO'S ALL
OVER SOCIAL
MEDIA.

THE
CLAWS
GAVE YOU
AWAY. EVEN
WITH THE
FLAMES.

I'VE BEEN
ALL OVER DC,
LOOKING FOR
YOU.

OF COURSE
IT'S A GRAVEYARD
WHERE YOU'RE
HIDING.

I KEPT
MEANING TO TELL
YOU. I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW.





WE TALK
THROUGH THE
NIGHT. ABOUT HER.
ABOUT ME. ABOUT
EVERYTHING...

...INCLUDING
SEVERITH.



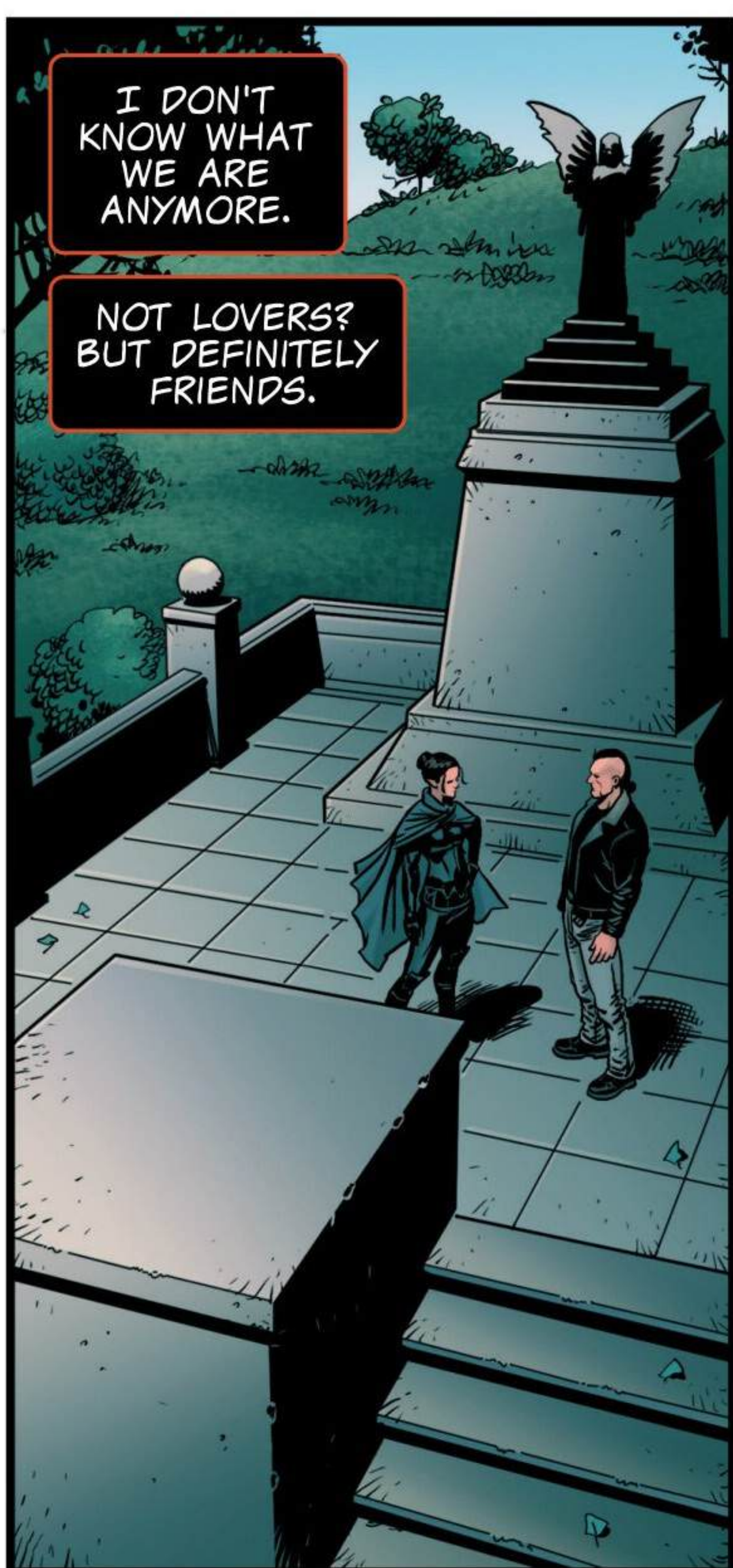
I KNEW HE WOULD
STAGE HIS TRAP IN
A PLACE WHERE THE
BOUNDARY BETWEEN
EARTH AND HELL
WAS FRAIL.

I SUSPECTED
HELL'S
BACKBONE
IN UTAH.



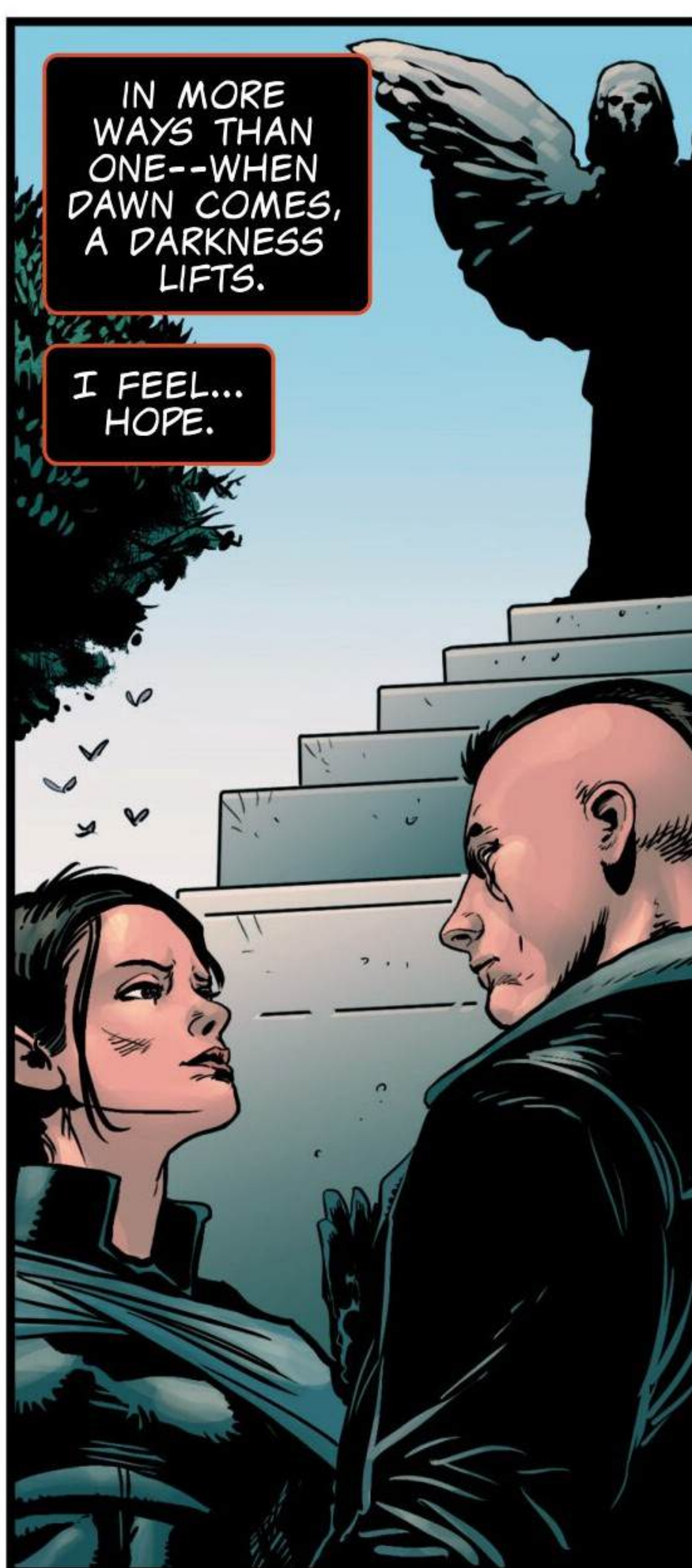
BUT--FOR THE
FUTURE OF PROJECT
HELLFIRE--I COULDN'T
CHASE A HUNCH.

SHE SAID
SHE WOULD
GO FOR ME.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
WE ARE
ANYMORE.

NOT LOVERS?
BUT DEFINITELY
FRIENDS.



IN MORE
WAYS THAN
ONE--WHEN
DAWN COMES,
A DARKNESS
LIFTS.

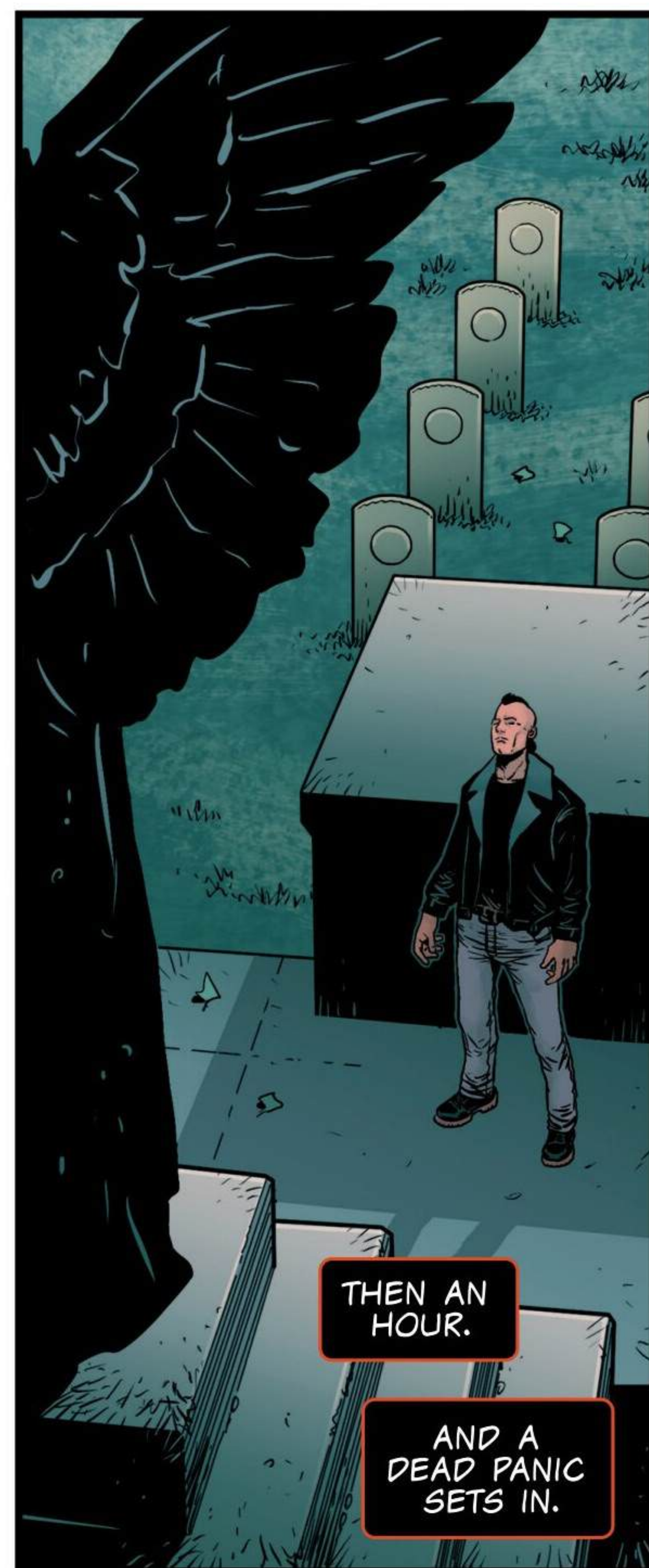
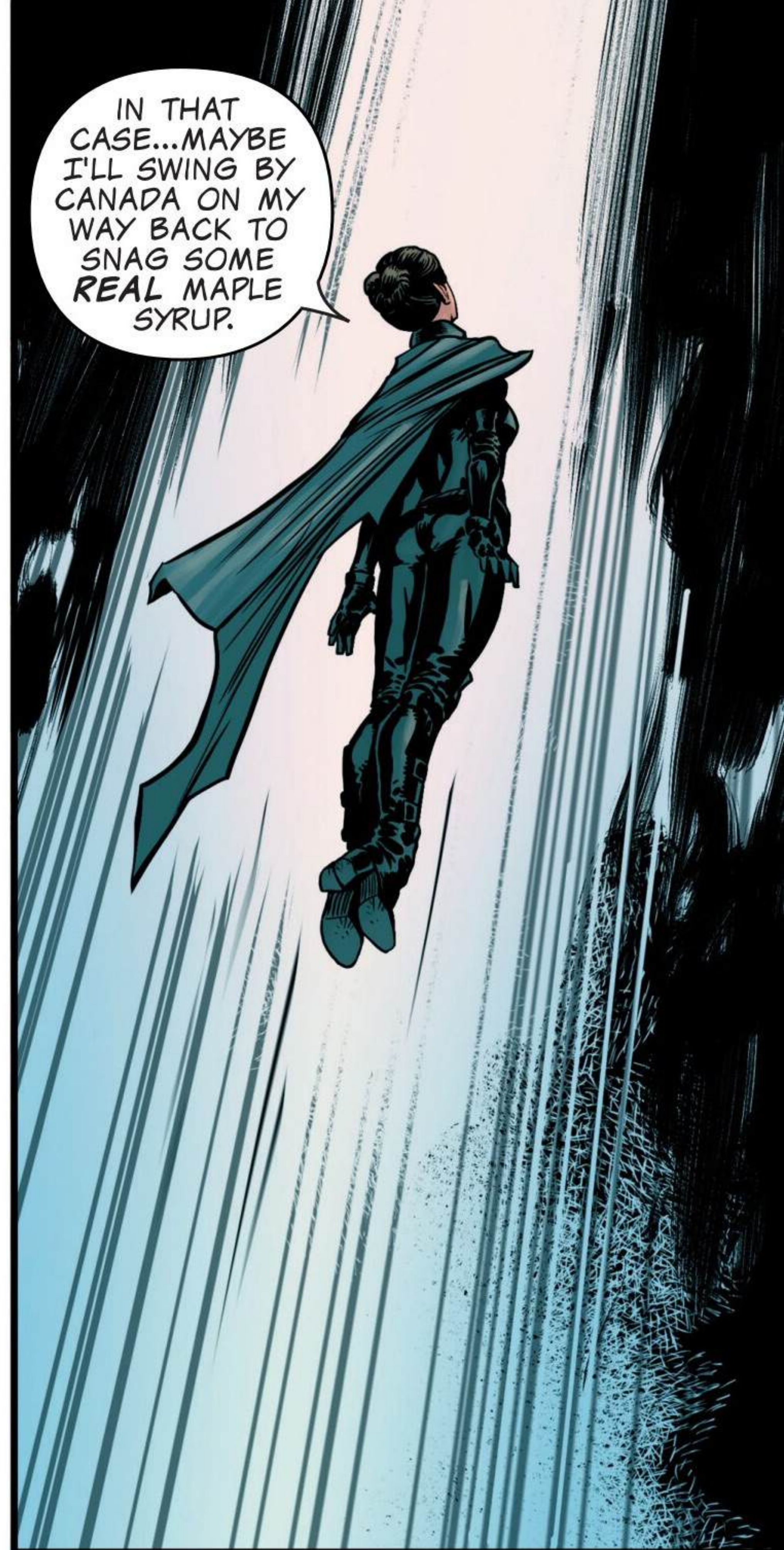
I FEEL...
HOPE.



I'LL BE
BACK IN
A FLASH,
OKAY?

MAYBE YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO.

NO. I
SHOULD. LET
ME DO THIS
FOR YOU.



I DON'T TELL ANYONE
I'M LEAVING.

I WANT TO
GIVE THEM
DENIABILITY.

BECAUSE I'M
GOING ROGUE.

THE LAST THING I
WANT TO DO IS ABANDON
PROJECT HELLFIRE, THE
CLOSEST THING I HAVE
TO A HOME AND
FAMILY RIGHT NOW.

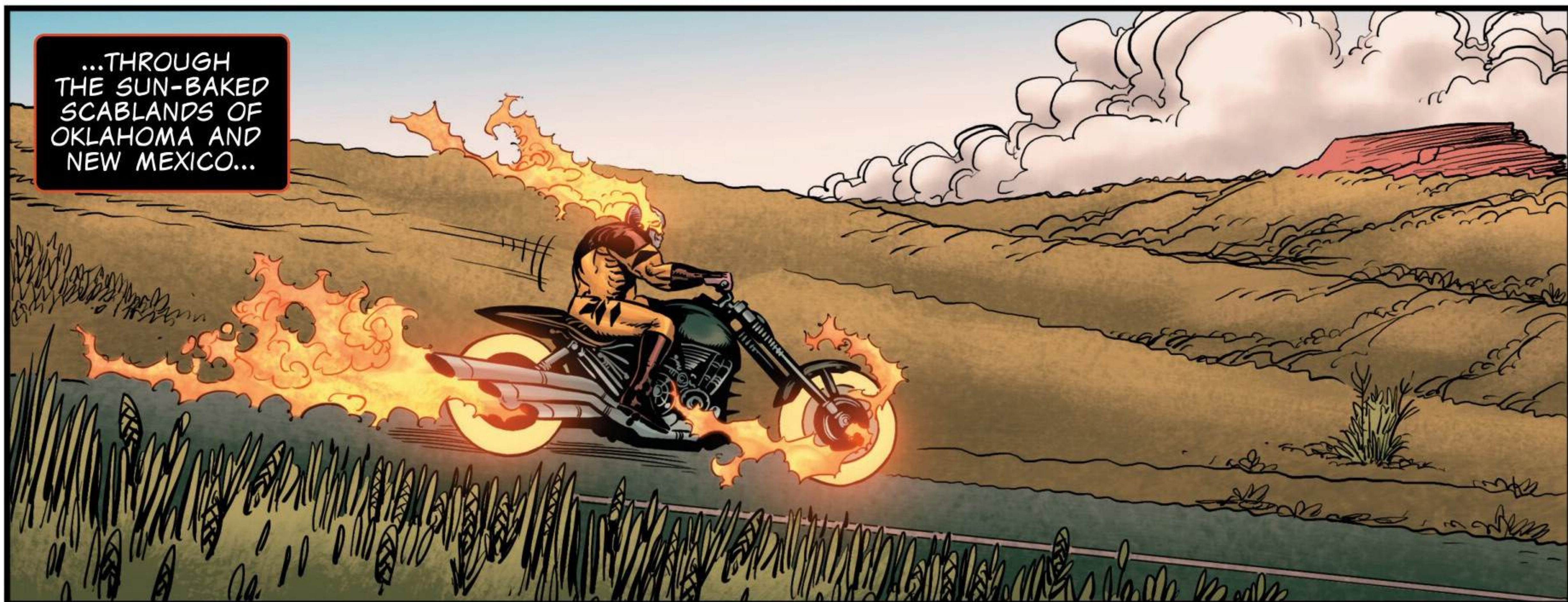
BUT IF
AURORA IS IN
TROUBLE, I'M
TO BLAME.

I'LL EAT ALL THE PAIN IN THE
WORLD, BUT I CAN'T ABIDE HURTING
THE FEW FRIENDS I HAVE.



I STICK TO THE
BACK ROADS
WHEN I CAN.

THROUGH
THE SHADOWY
MOUNTAIN COUNTRY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
AND TENNESSEE...



...THROUGH
THE SUN-BAKED
SCABLANDS OF
OKLAHOMA AND
NEW MEXICO...



...AND FINALLY
INTO THE RED
ROCK CASTLES
OF UTAH...

...I RIDE
LIKE HELL.



ASPHALT
BURNS.

AND SO
DO I.



I'M IN SUCH A ROARING HURRY, I ALMOST MISS IT.

SCREEEEEE



A BORDER.
A GATEWAY.



THE AIR HAS A SLIGHT SHIVER AND MURMUR TO IT, LIKE A DOG GROWLING BEFORE IT BITES.



THE GATE WAS BUILT WITH HELL MAGIC.

VROMMM



AND ANYONE WHO ENTERS WON'T BE ABLE TO EXIT.



NOW I KNOW WHY
I COULDN'T SENSE
SEVERITH AND HELL
HULK BEFORE.



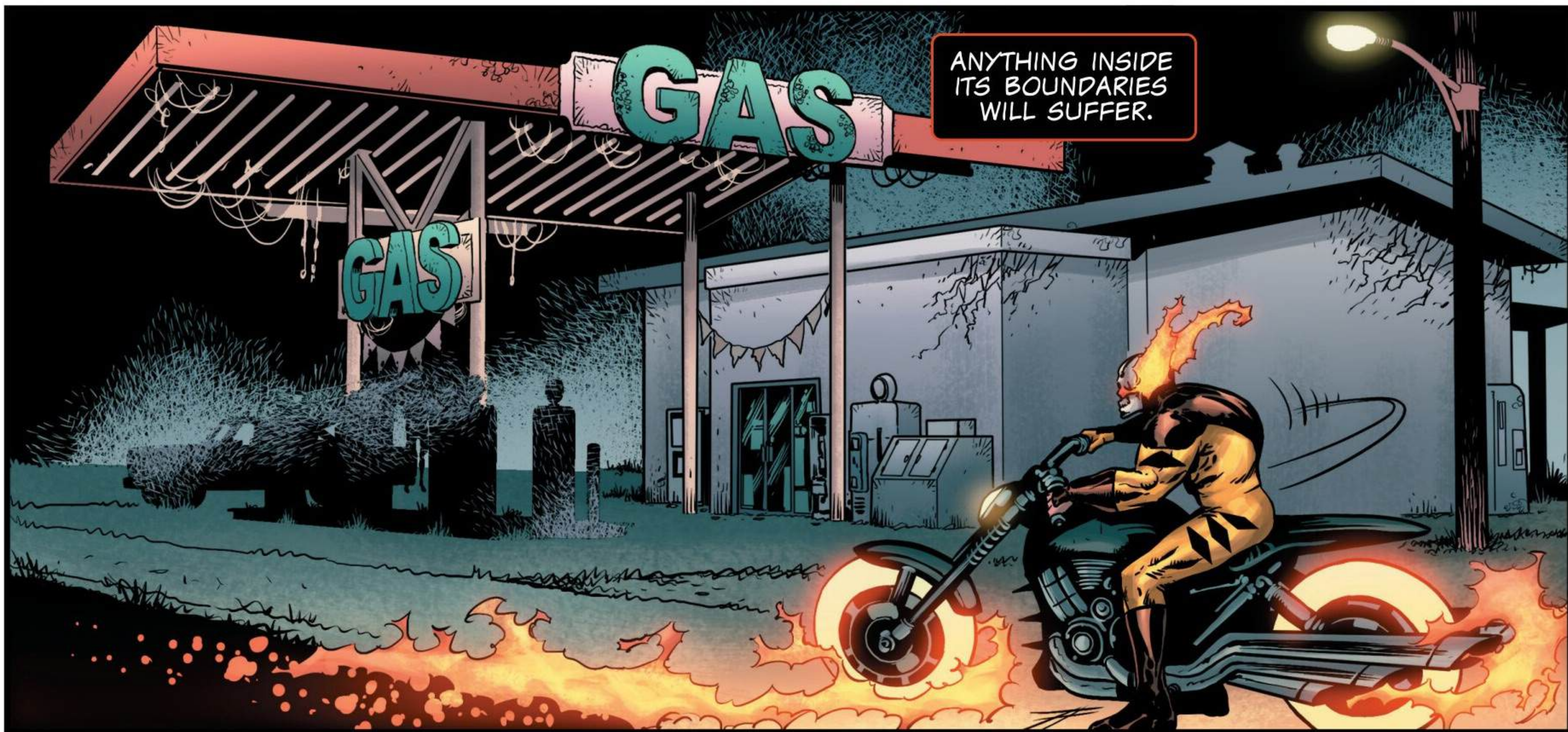
THEY HAD
BOTTLED
THEMSELVES
INTO A WORLD
WITHIN OUR
WORLD.



A POCKET
DIMENSION
OF HELL.



WHERE
SHADOWS LURK
AND HOT,
SULFUROUS
WINDS BLOW.



ANYTHING INSIDE
ITS BOUNDARIES
WILL SUFFER.



IT'S ANOTHER ONE
OF SEVERITH'S
EXPERIMENTS.



IF HE CAN
CREATE A
LOCUS OF
SUFFERING...



...A STRONGHOLD
THAT CHANNELS
HELL'S ENERGY...



...THEN
DEMONS WILL
FOLLOW.



LIKE
ME.

LIKE
MEPHISTO.



SPLK



IT'S A TRAP
THAT I *HAVE*
TO WALK INTO.

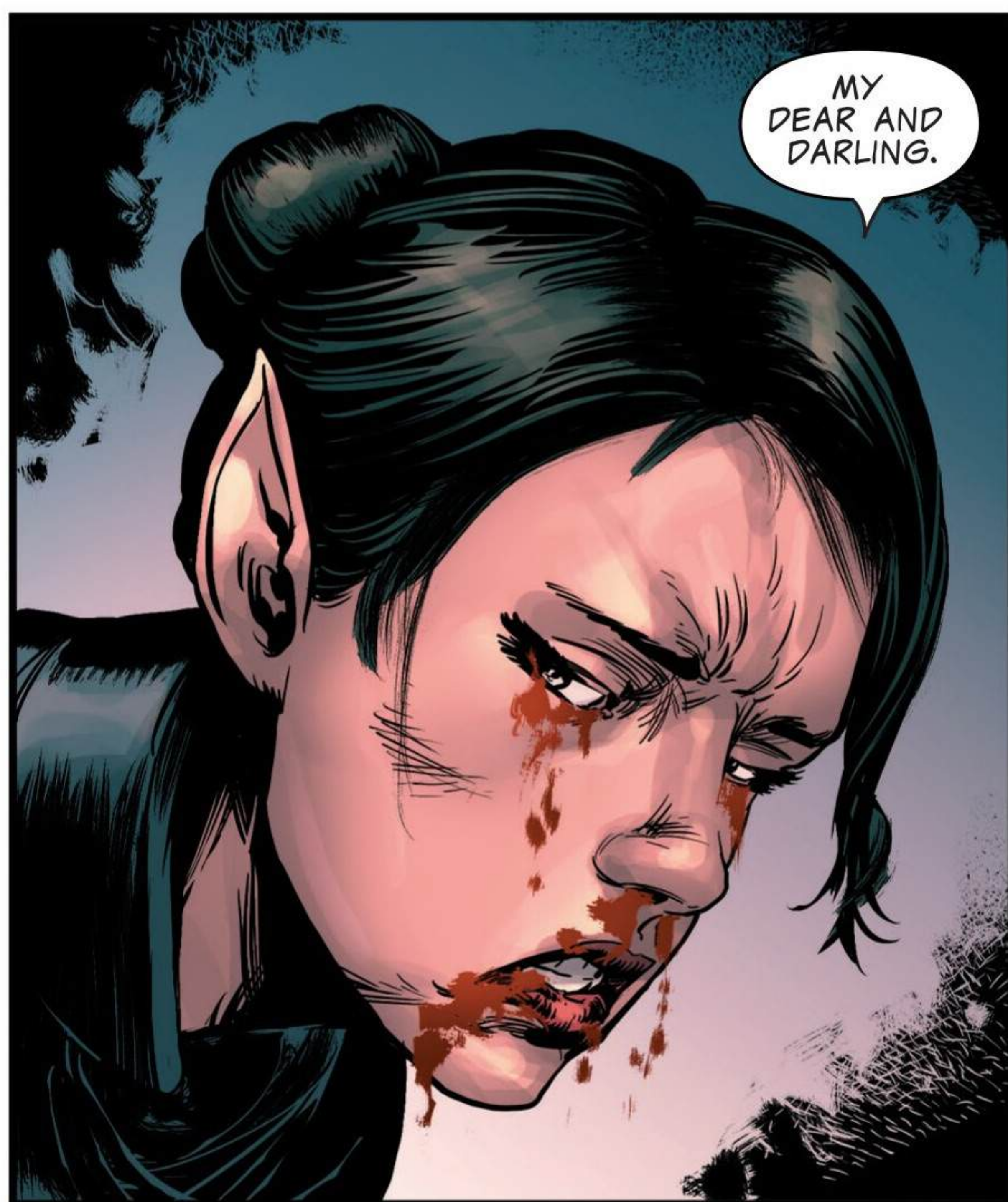
BECAUSE
OF...



AURORA?



I KNEW
YOU'D
COME.



MY
DEAR AND
DARLING.



I DON'T
MEAN YOU,
AKIHIRO...

SK
LECH



...I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
**BAGRA-
GHUL.**



NOW
LET'S SETTLE
DOWN AND
TAKE A DEEP
BREATH.

AURORA
IS STILL
ALIVE.

FWINKT
FWINKT



THIS IS
MERELY A
PREVIEW OF
WHAT MIGHT
BEFALL
HER...

...IF YOU
DON'T DO
AS I SAY.



SO NOW
YOU NEED ME,
BECAUSE I
NEED YOU...



"...TO STOP
THEM."

#10



"SHADOW BLISTERING"



EVERYONE KNOWS...



...YOU CAN'T TRUST A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.



BUT MEPHISTO'S MADE ME AN OFFER...

...AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY NO.



IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE, HELLYERINE.

YOU HELP ME...



...OR I MAKE AURORA A PLAYGROUND FOR HELL'S EVERY TORMENT.

HELL'S BACKBONE.
UTAH.

"BUT REALLY,
THERE'S
NO REASON
WE SHOULDN'T
WORK
TOGETHER...

"...FIGHTING
A COMMON
ENEMY.



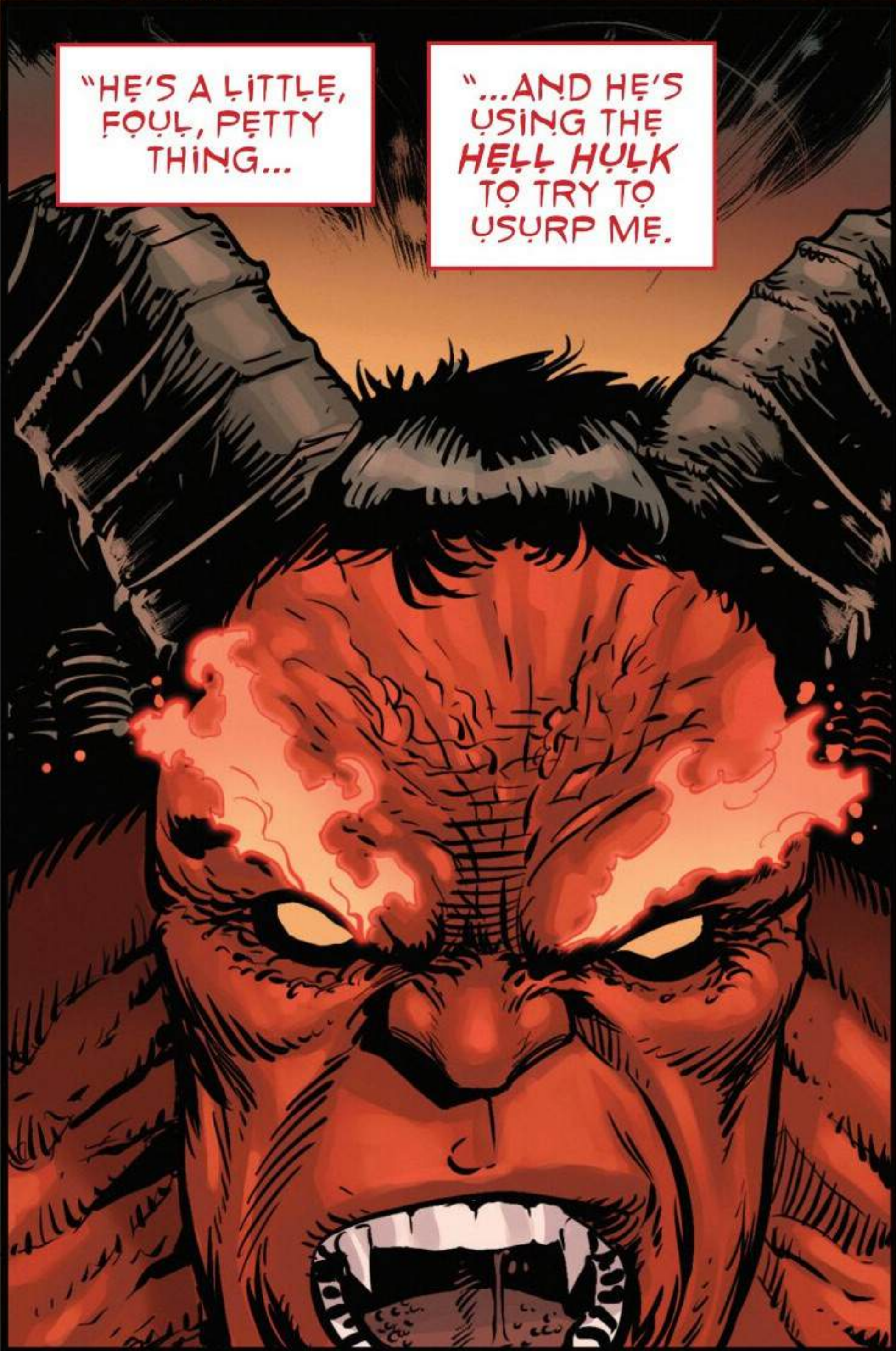
"SEVERITH SERVED
ME ONCE.

"I PUNISHED HIM
FOR HIS FAILURES,
AND NOW HE'S OUT
FOR REVENGE.

"HE'S A LITTLE,
FOUL, PETTY
THING...

"...AND HE'S
USING THE
HELL HULK
TO TRY TO
USURP ME.

"DO
YOU FEEL
THAT?"





"THIS AREA HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS A THIN SPOT, WHERE THE SEPARATION OF HELL AND EARTH IS FRAIL."

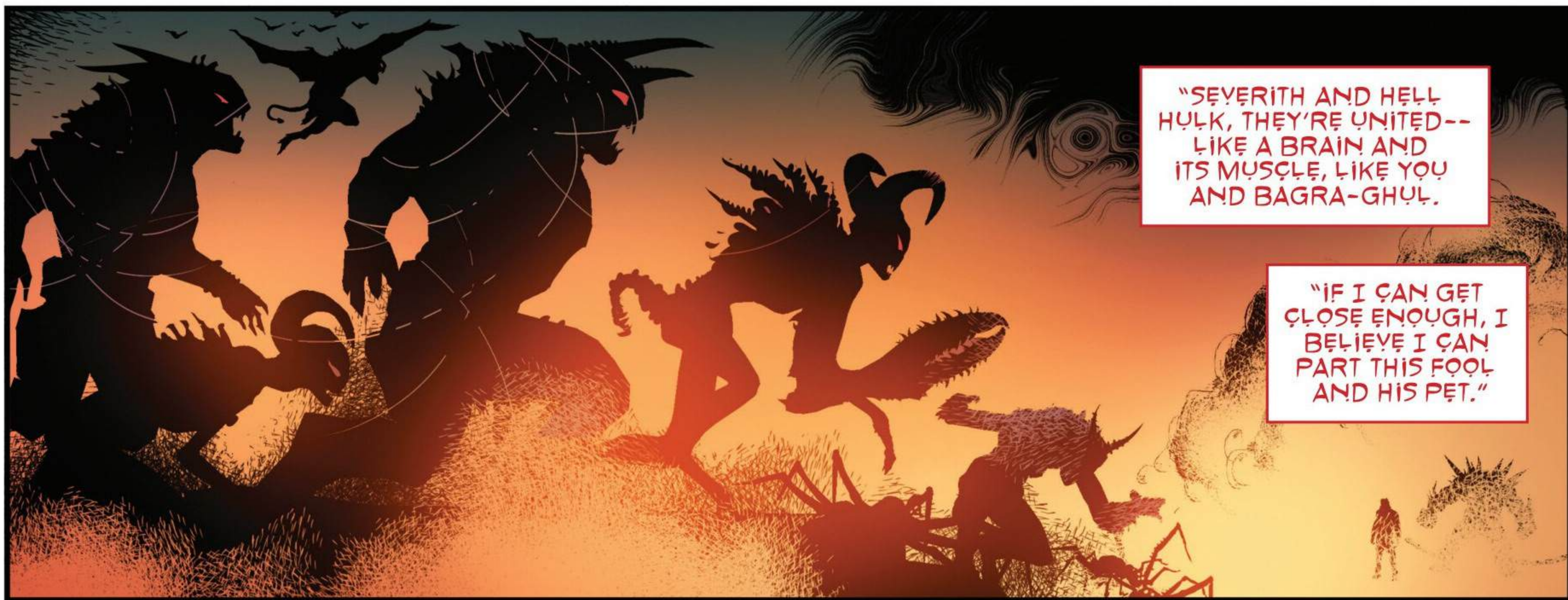


"THE ENERGY POURING OFF HELL HULK IS SHATTERING THE BOUNDARY."



"THAT MEANS DEMONS."

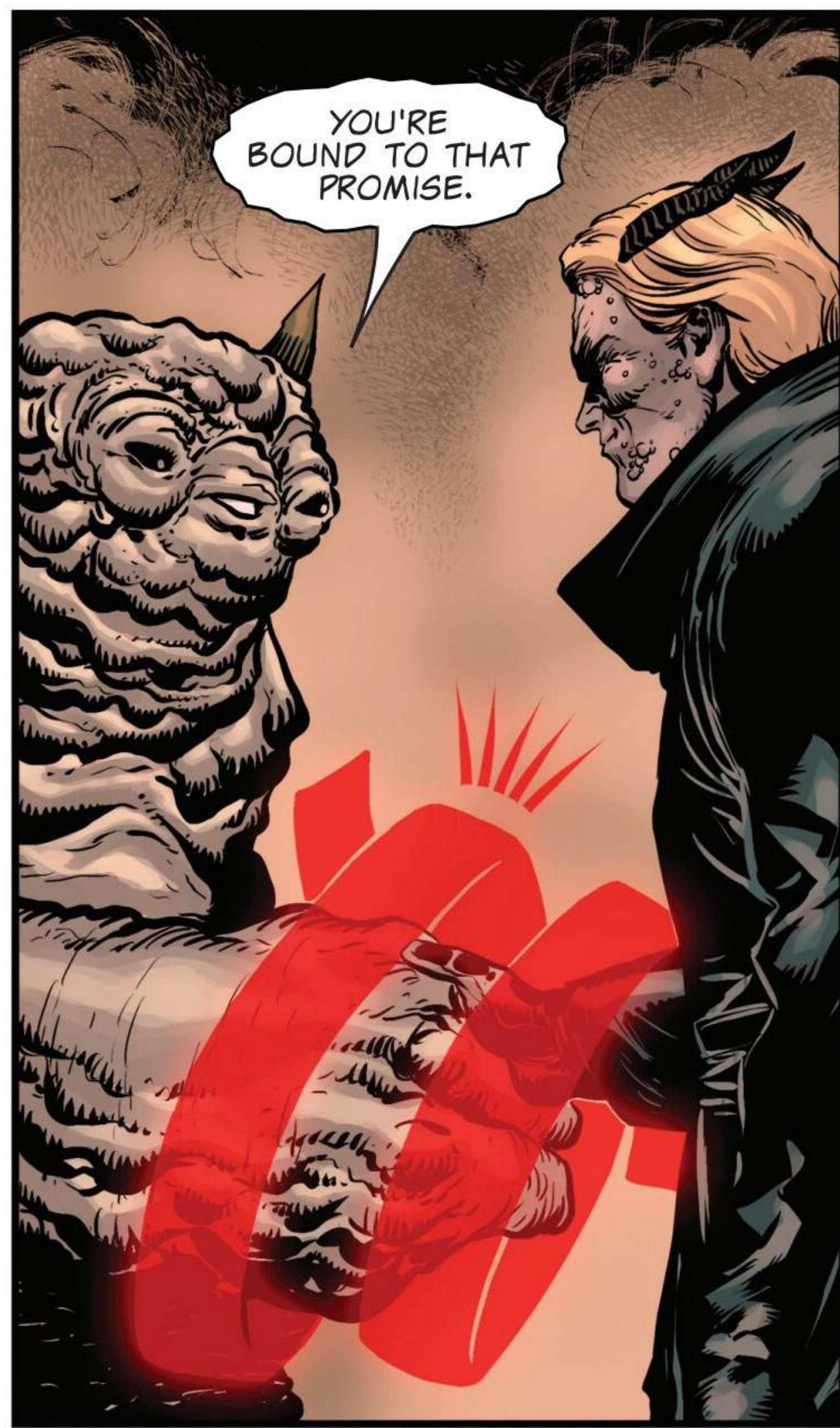
"AND DEMONS MEAN DEATH."



"SEVERITH AND HELL HULK, THEY'RE UNITED-- LIKE A BRAIN AND ITS MUSCLE, LIKE YOU AND BAGRA-GHUL."

"IF I CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH, I BELIEVE I CAN PART THIS FOOL AND HIS PET."







I'LL FIND
A CHILD, YES. A
NICE, INNOCENT
CHILD.

I'LL LIVE
UNDER ITS BED,
YES, AND WHISPER
IN ITS EAR ALL
NIGHT, YES, UNTIL
IT KILLS ITS
PARENTS.

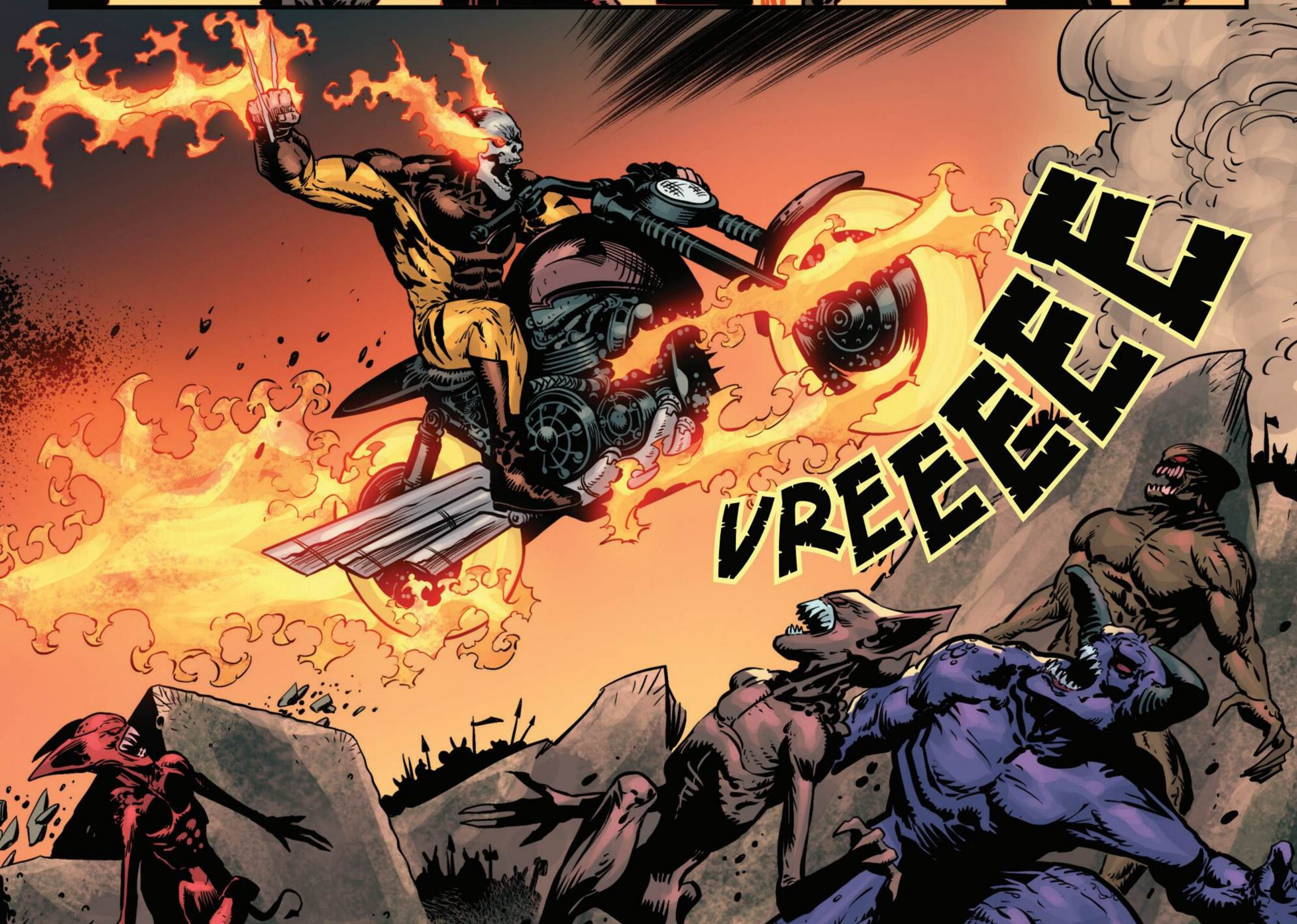
I LIKE AN
OLD. THERE'S
SO FEW OF THE
OLD WOMENS
IN HELL.

I'LL WEAR
HER SKIN LIKE SHE
WEARS DENTURES
AND WIGS AND
NIGHTGOWNS.



SHH--
DO YOU HEAR
THAT?

RRRR



VREEEE



THERE'S THIS
PHENOMENON...

...CALLED **SHADOW
BLISTERING**.



TWO
SHADOWS WILL
STRETCH OUT...



...AND REACH
FOR EACH
OTHER.

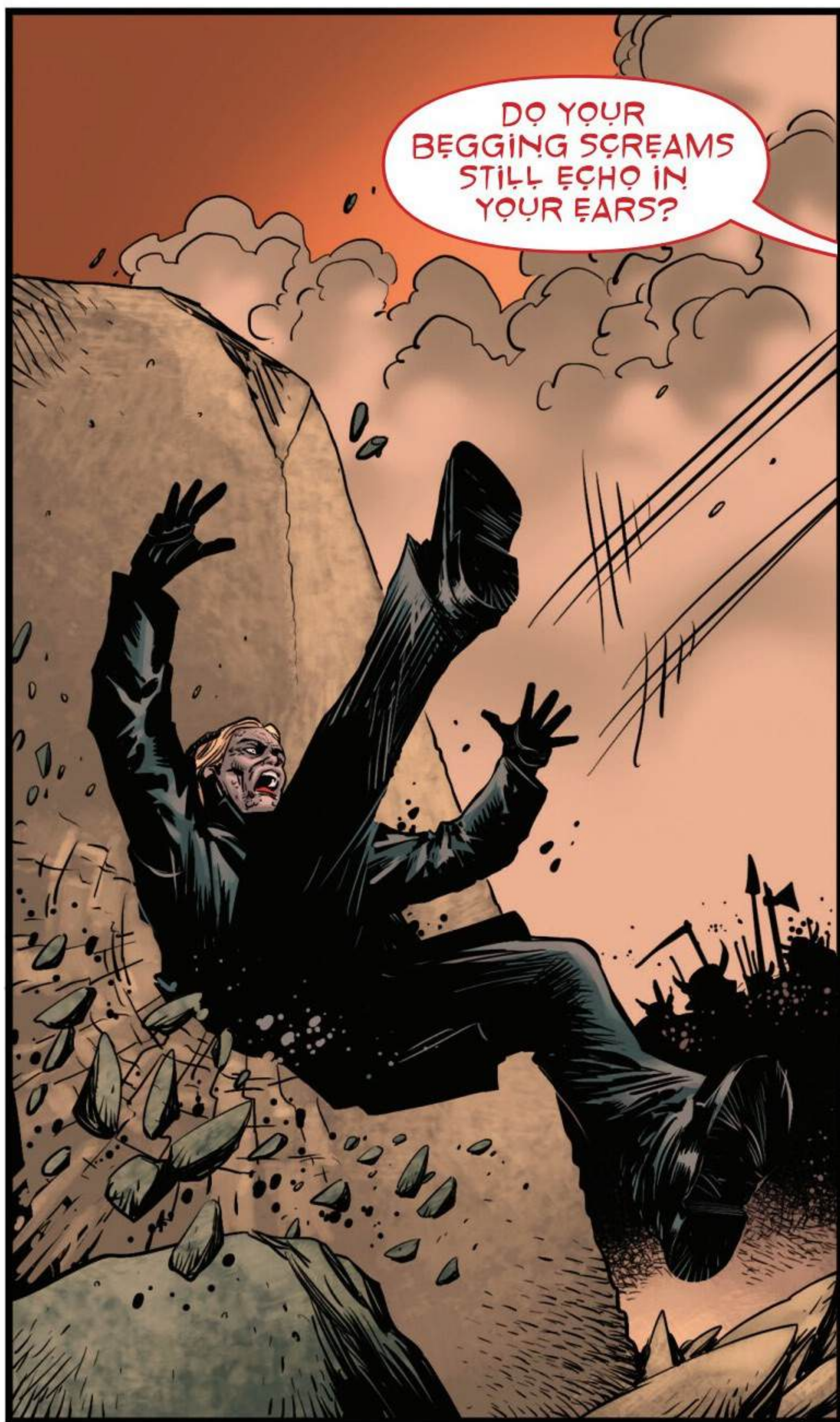


MAYBE THAT'S
A LITTLE LIKE
WHAT'S GOING
ON BETWEEN ME
AND MEPHISTO
RIGHT NOW.



DARKNESS REACHES
OUT TO DARKNESS
AND FINDS A
TERRIBLE UNION.

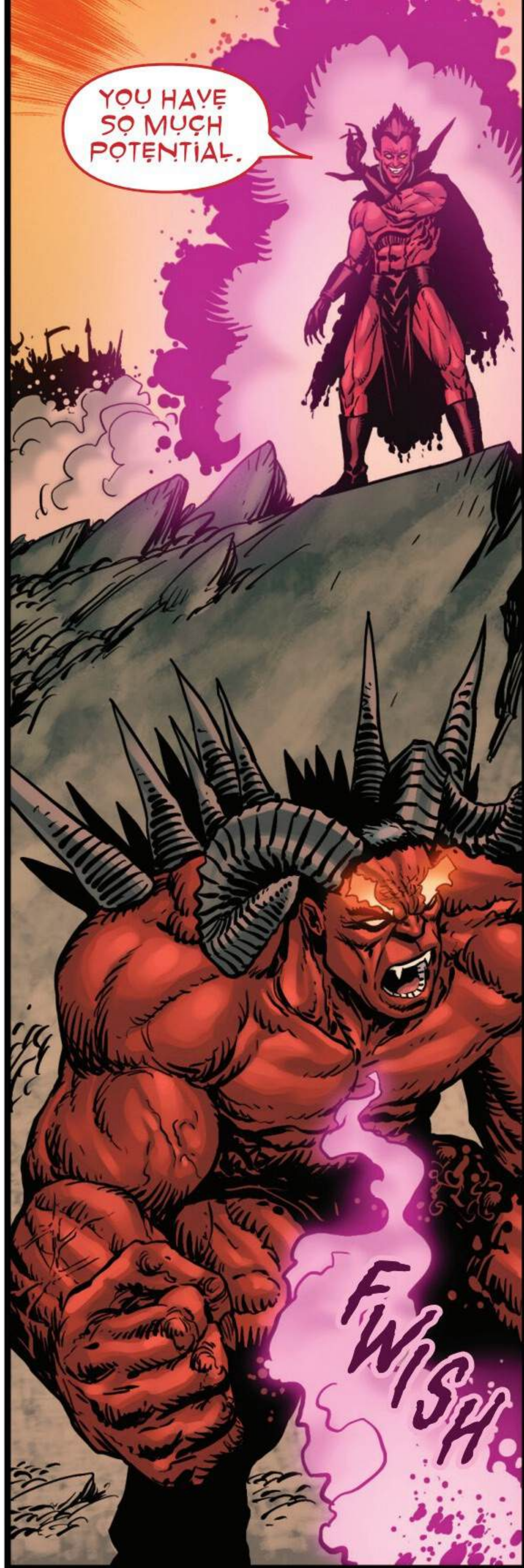


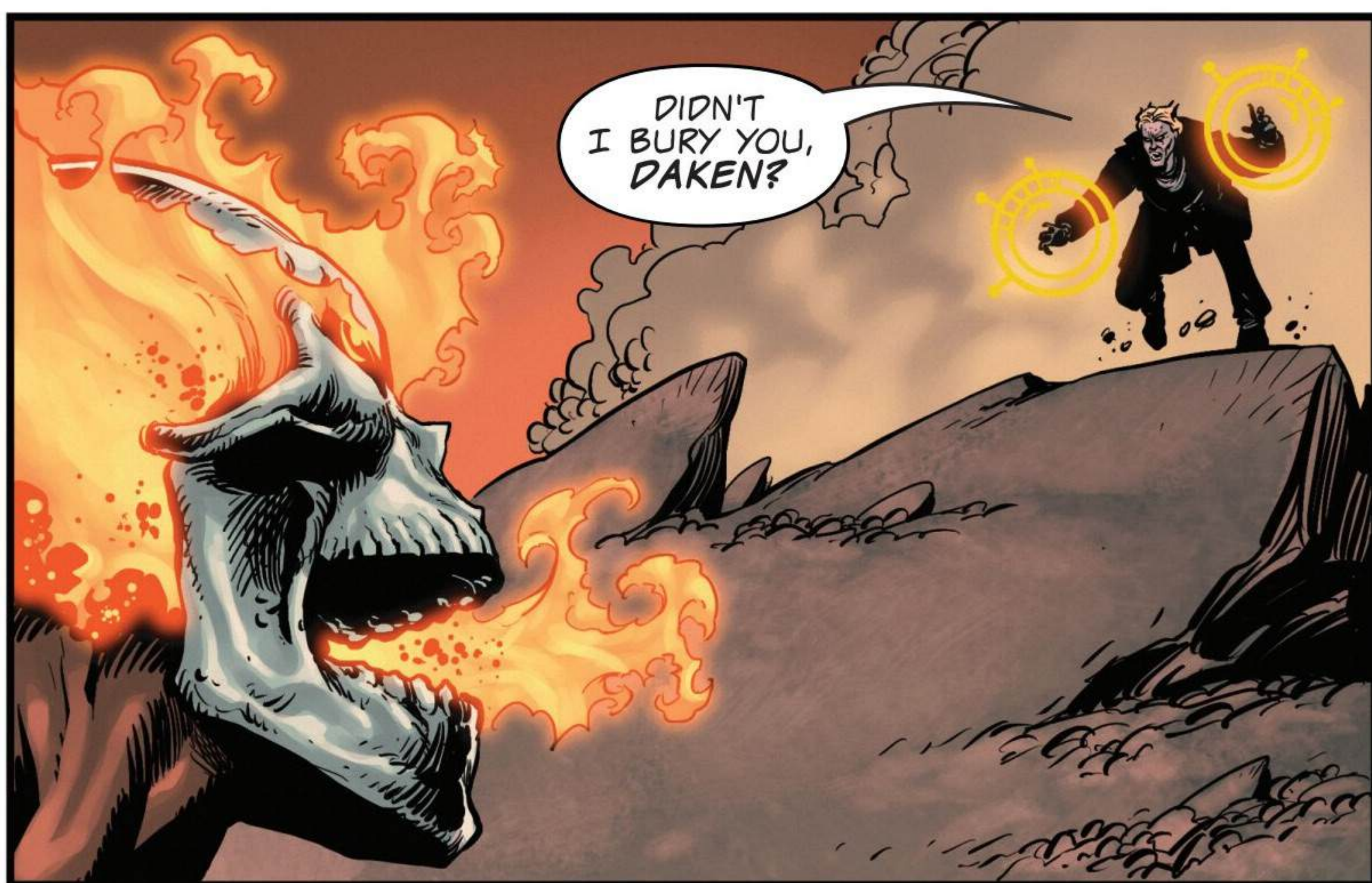


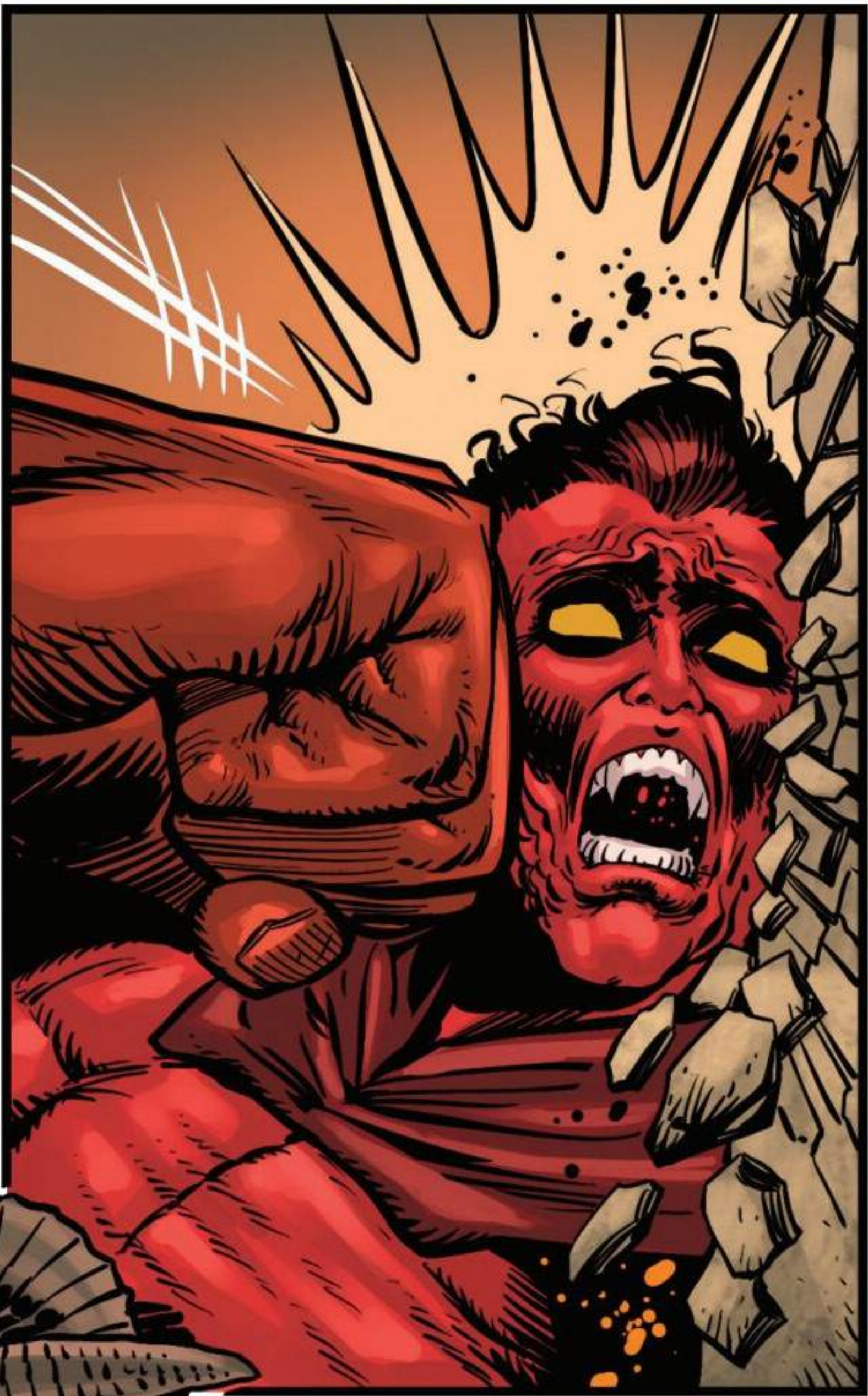
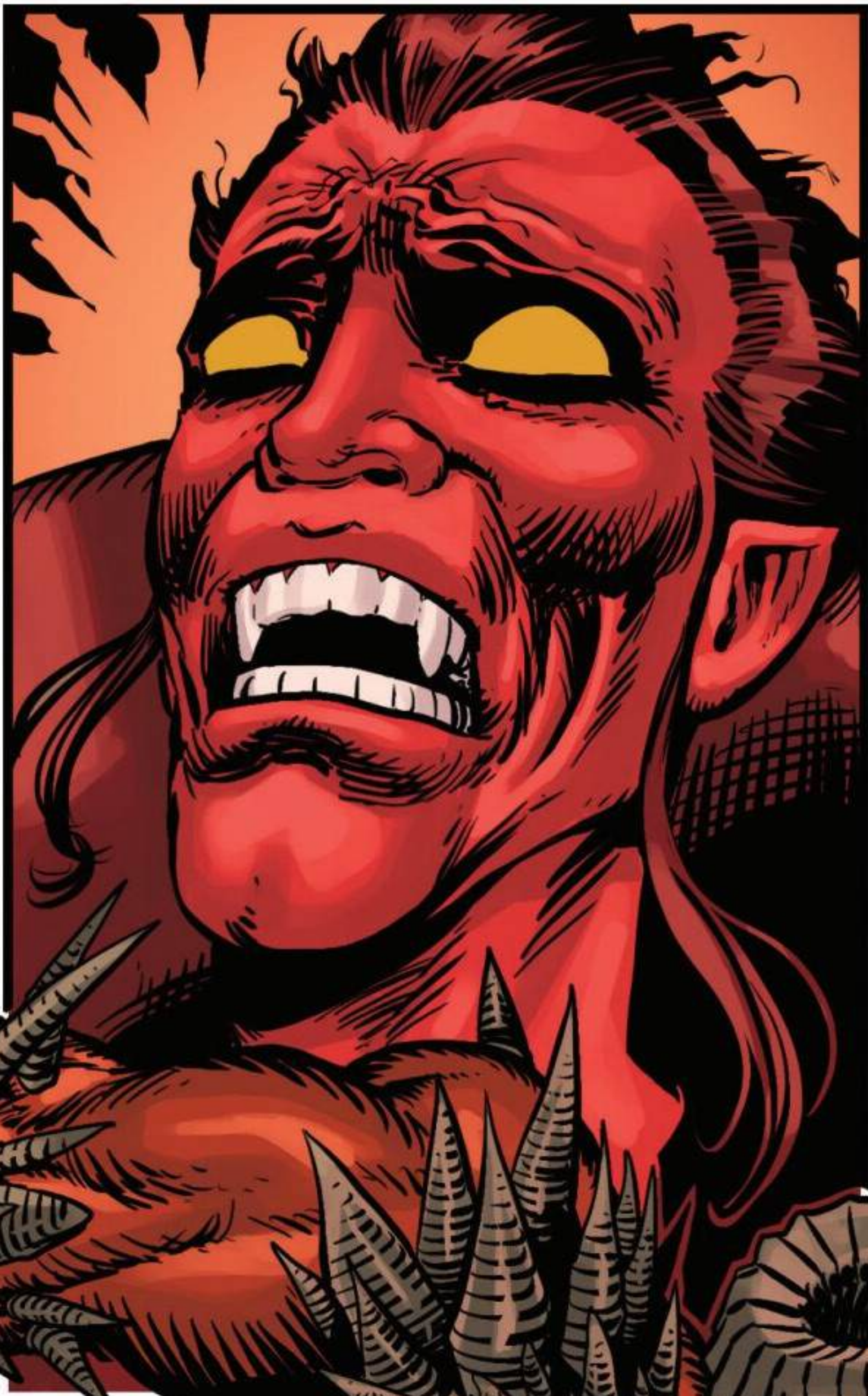


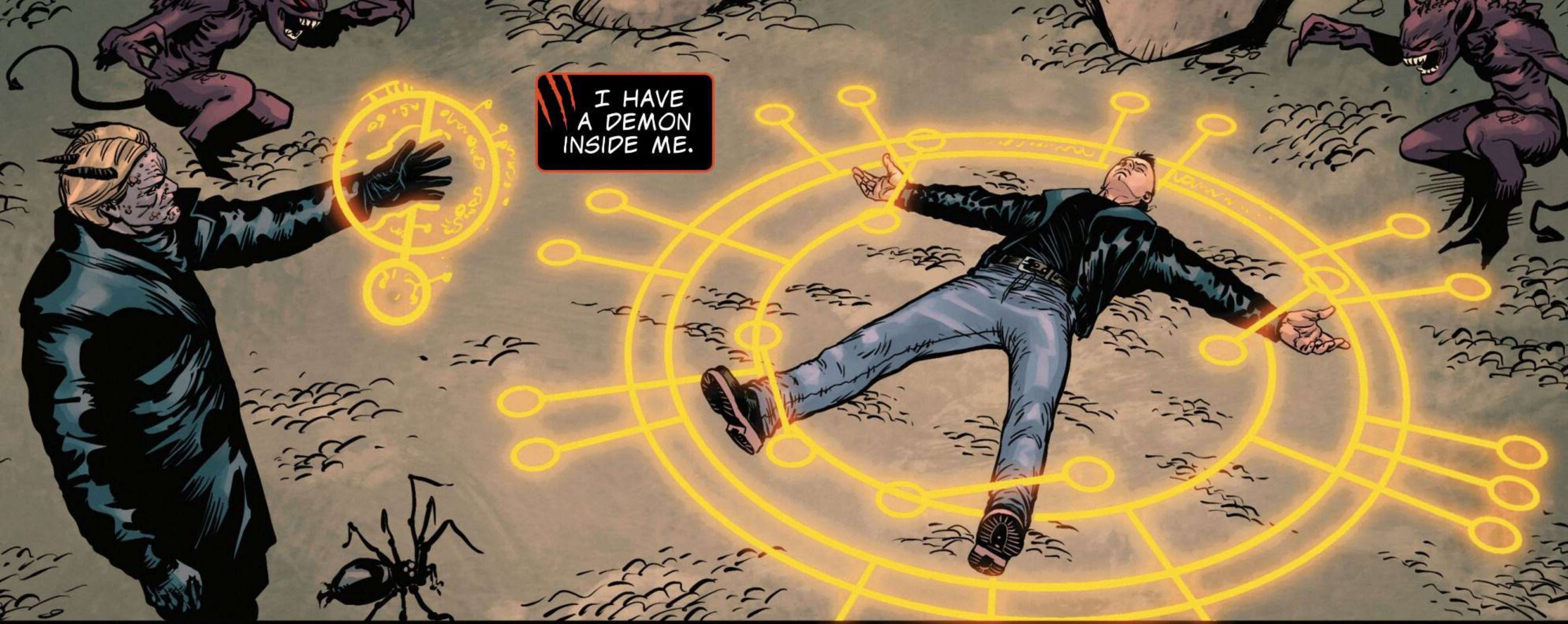
HARRRR!











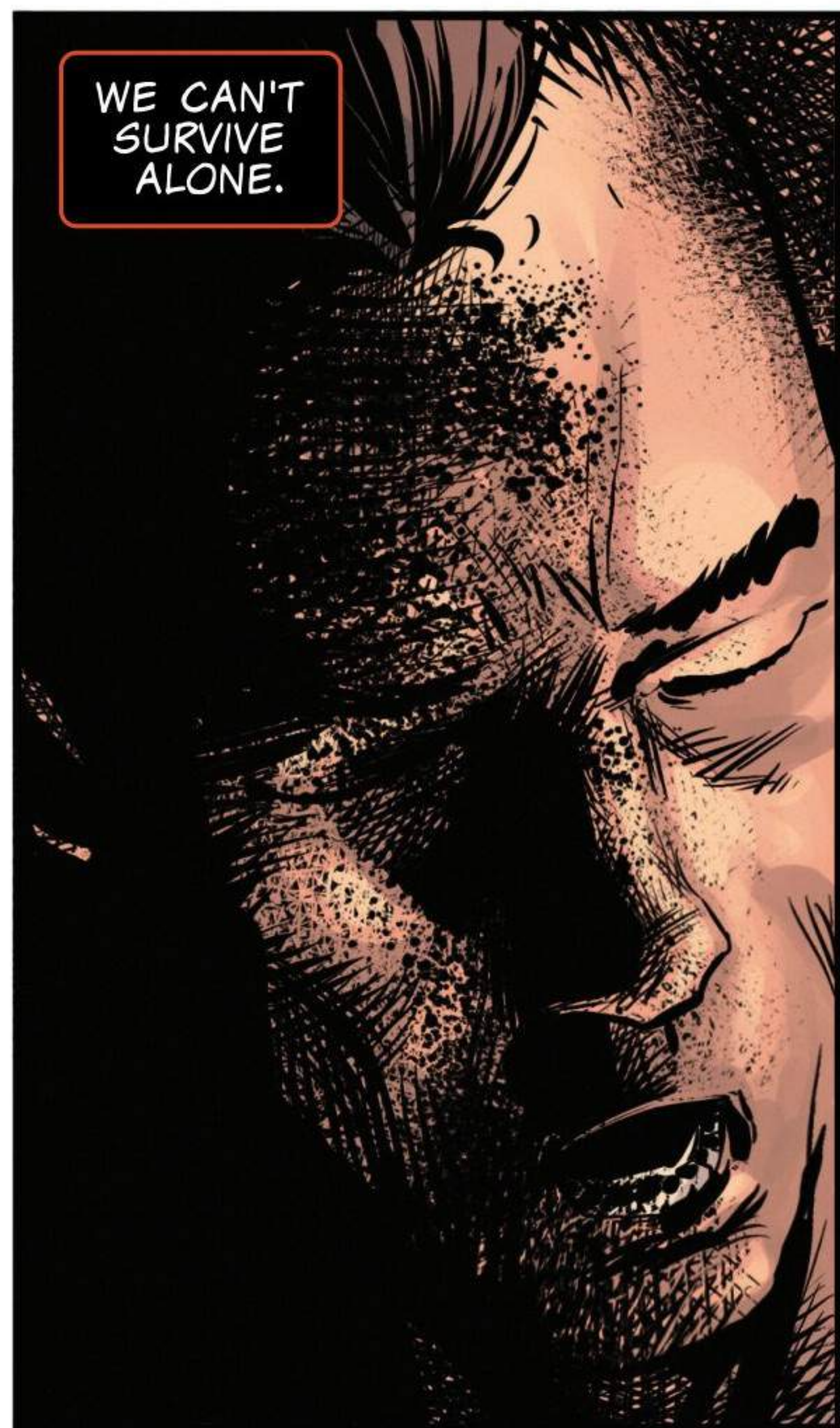
I HAVE
A DEMON
INSIDE ME.



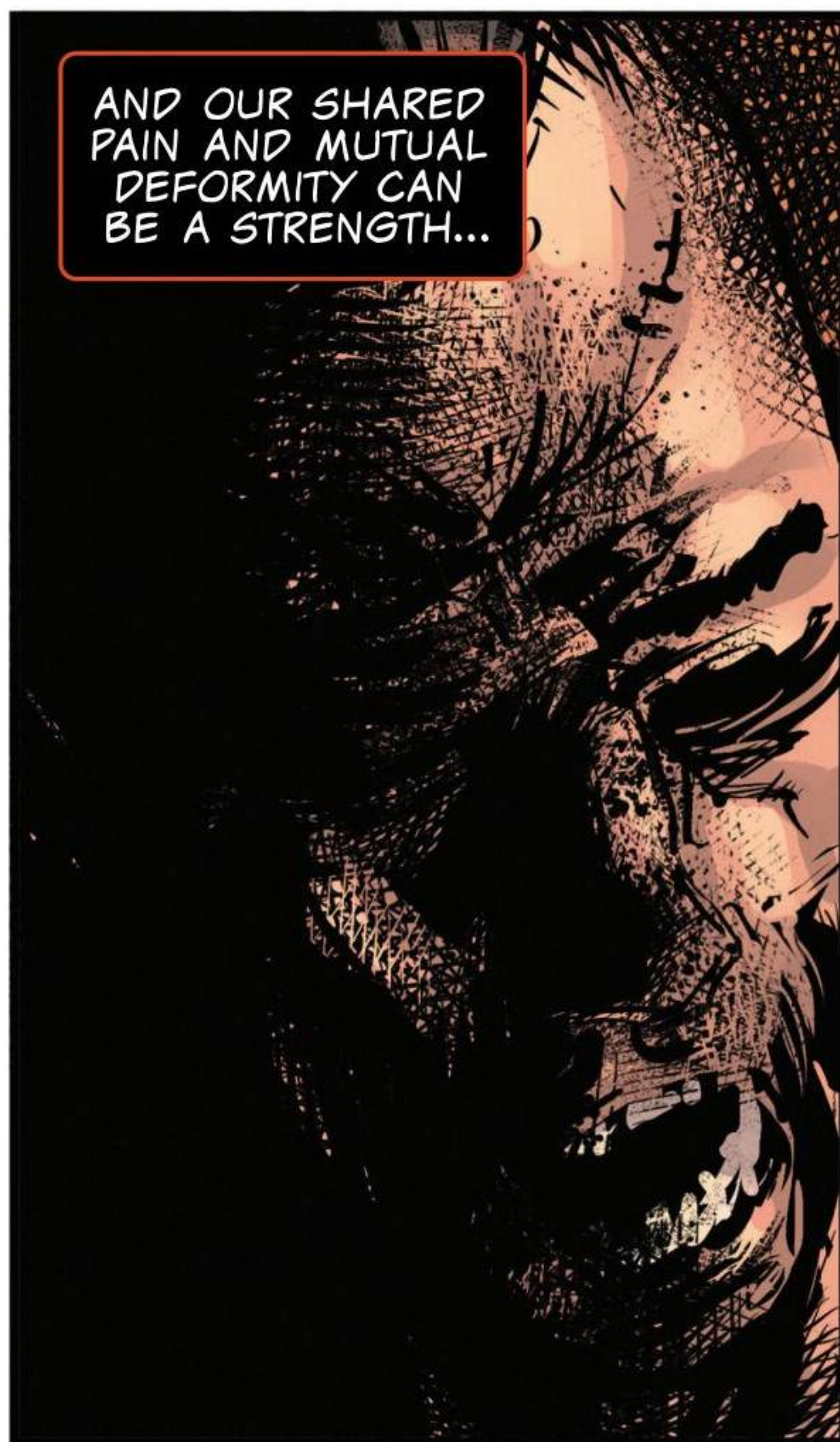
AT FIRST, I
CONSIDERED
IT A PARASITE
OR A TUMOR,
SOMETHING
I WISHED I
COULD CARVE
OUT OF ME.



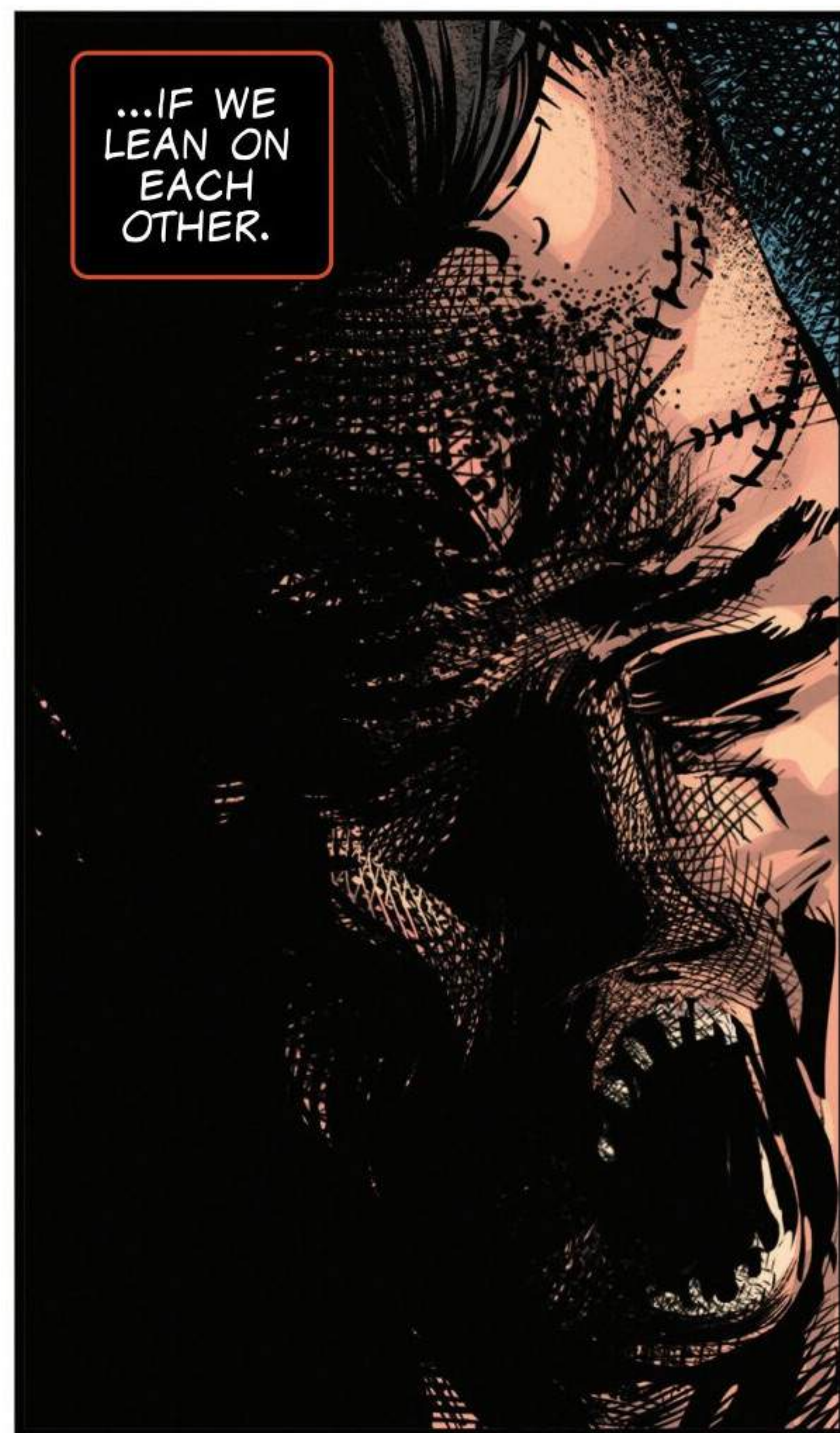
BUT I'VE COME
TO ACCEPT THAT
BAGRA-GHUL
IS MORE LIKE A
CONJOINED TWIN.



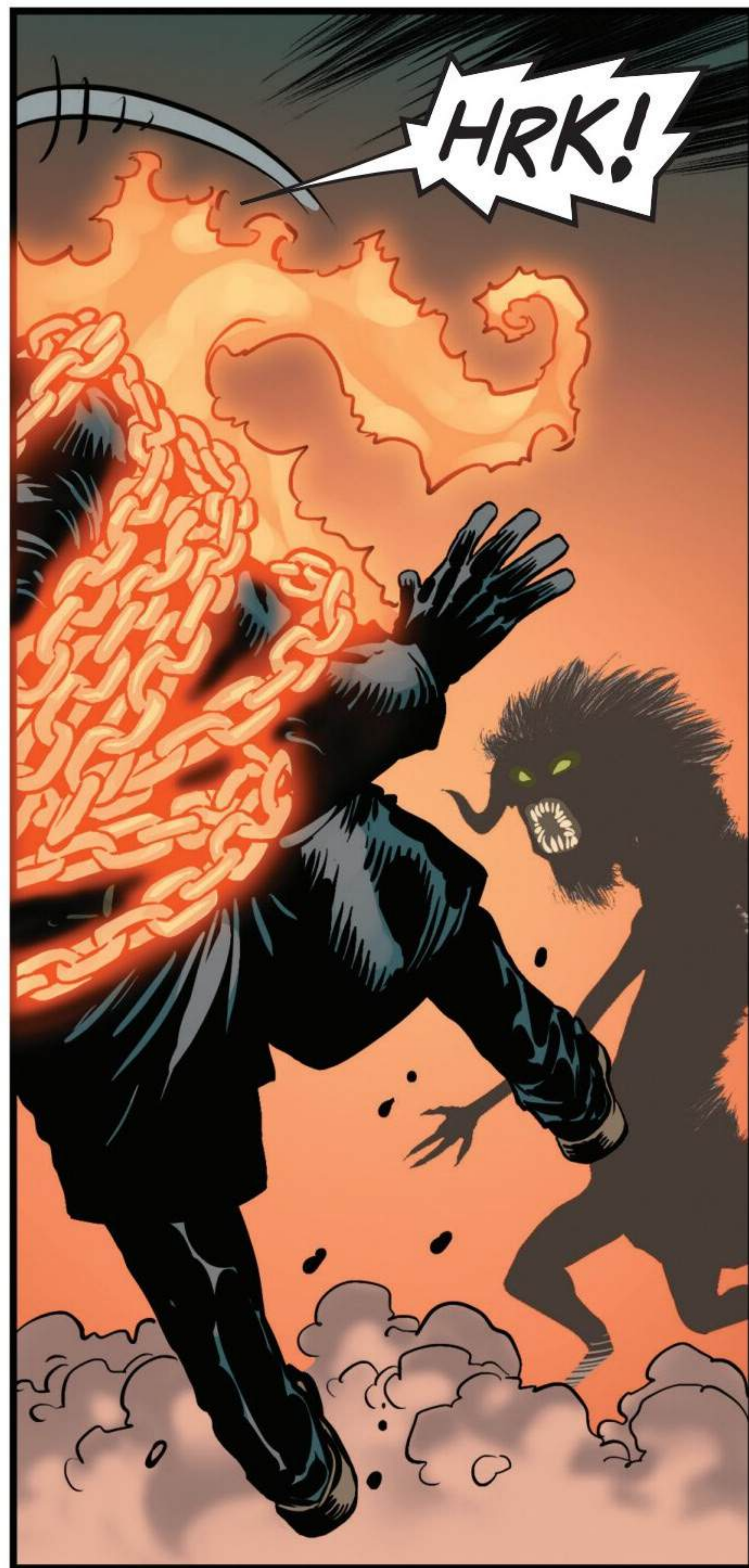
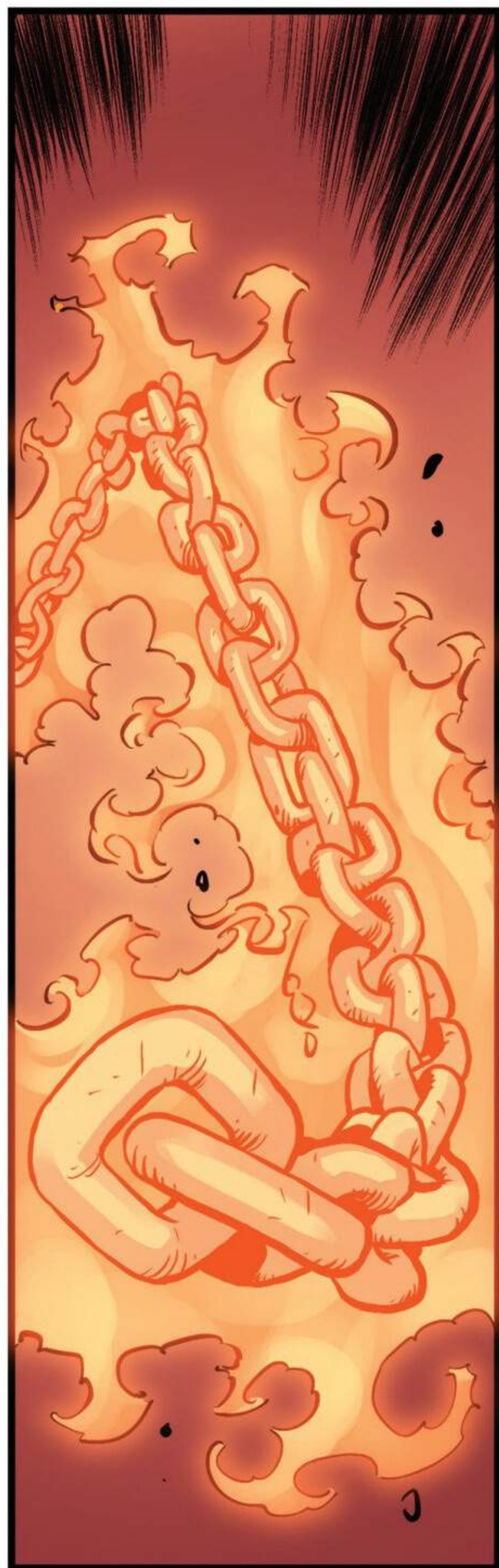
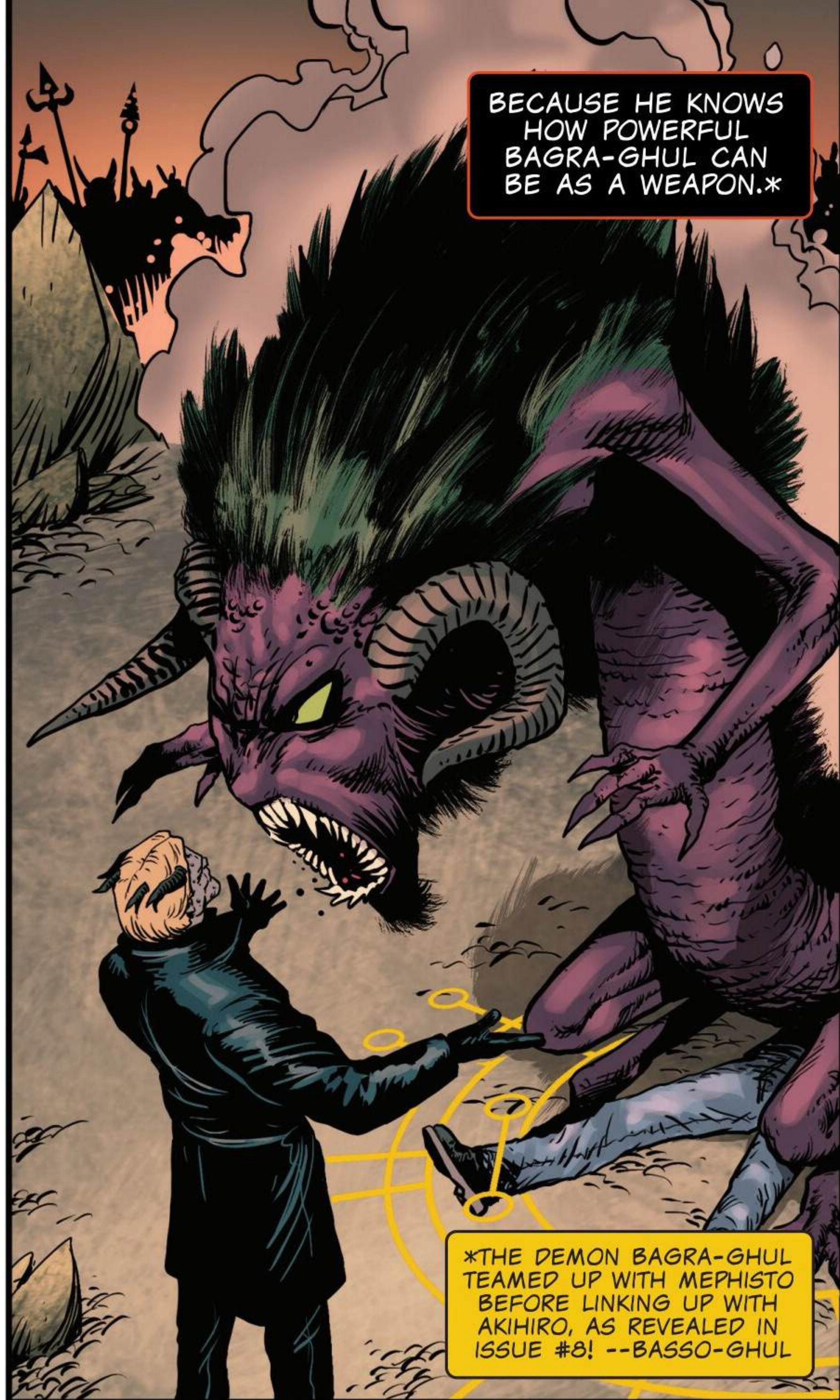
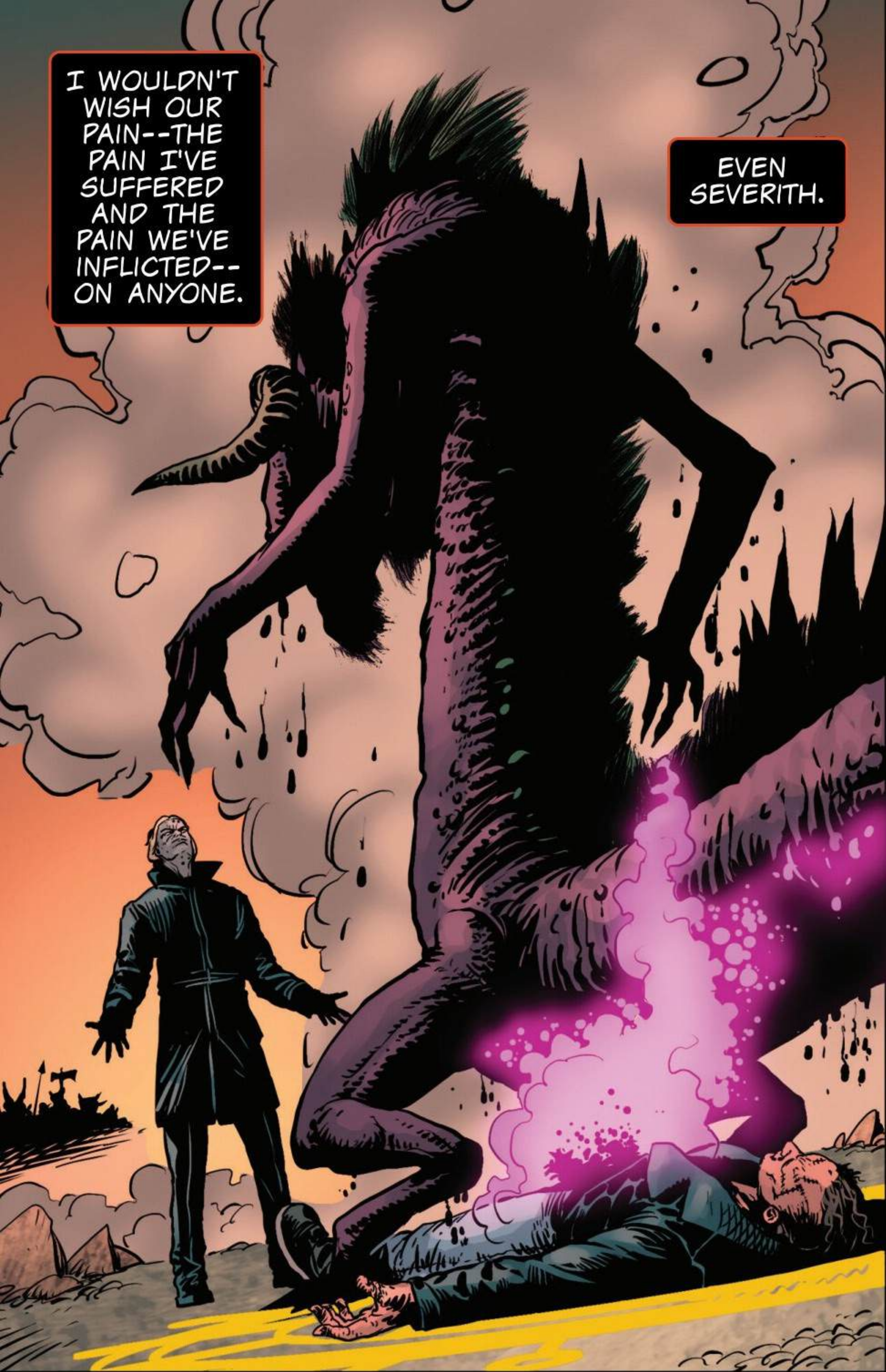
WE CAN'T
SURVIVE
ALONE.



AND OUR SHARED
PAIN AND MUTUAL
DEFORMITY CAN
BE A STRENGTH...



...IF WE
LEAN ON
EACH
OTHER.



PROJECT
HELLFIRE HAS
COME FOR ME--
ALONG WITH...



...AURORA?



NO!



I UNDERSTAND NOW.

SHE WAS NEVER
HIS CAPTIVE...



BRAKAKAKA

...AND
NEITHER
WAS I.



THE HELL
HULK IS STILL
RADIATING
POWER.

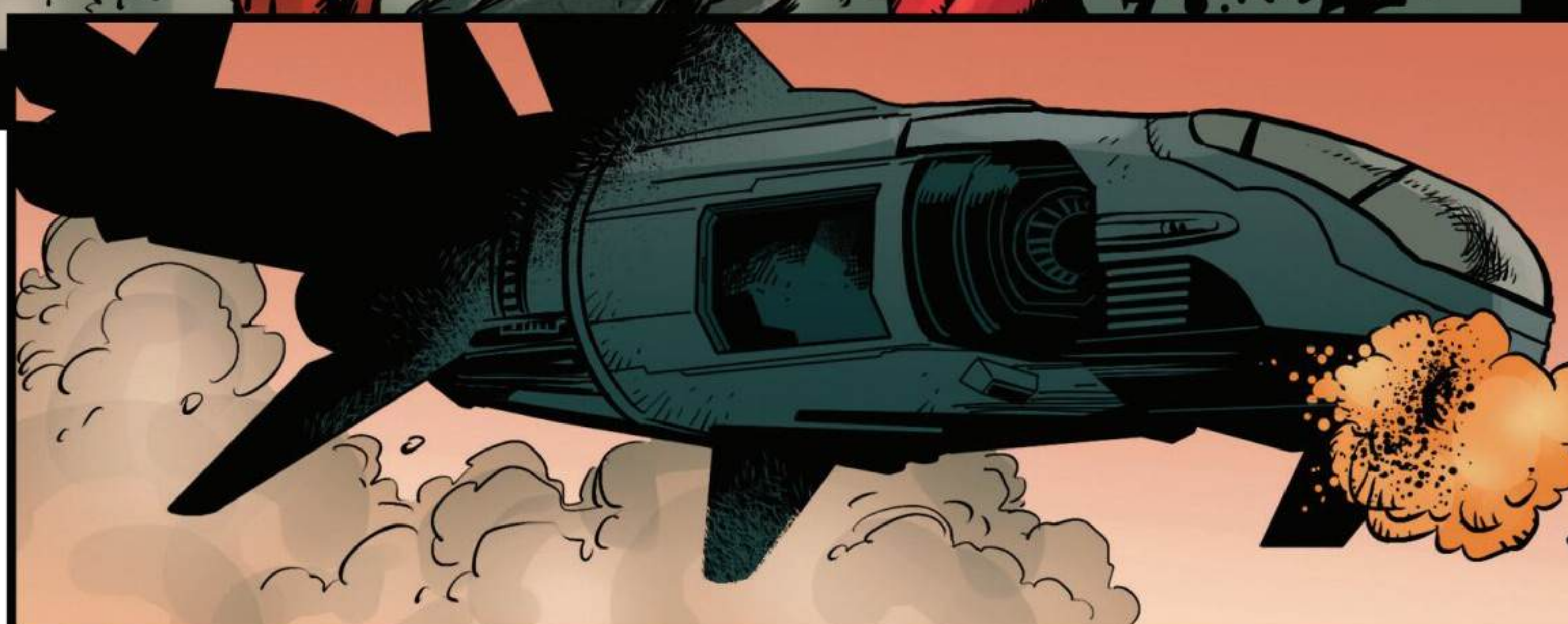


IT WOULD DRIVE
DR. SPIVEY
TO MADNESS IF
SHE'S EXPOSED
TO IT TOO LONG.

BUT
SOMETIMES
A LITTLE
RAGE...



...IS JUST WHAT
YOU NEED.



THAKAKAKA

HARRRRR...

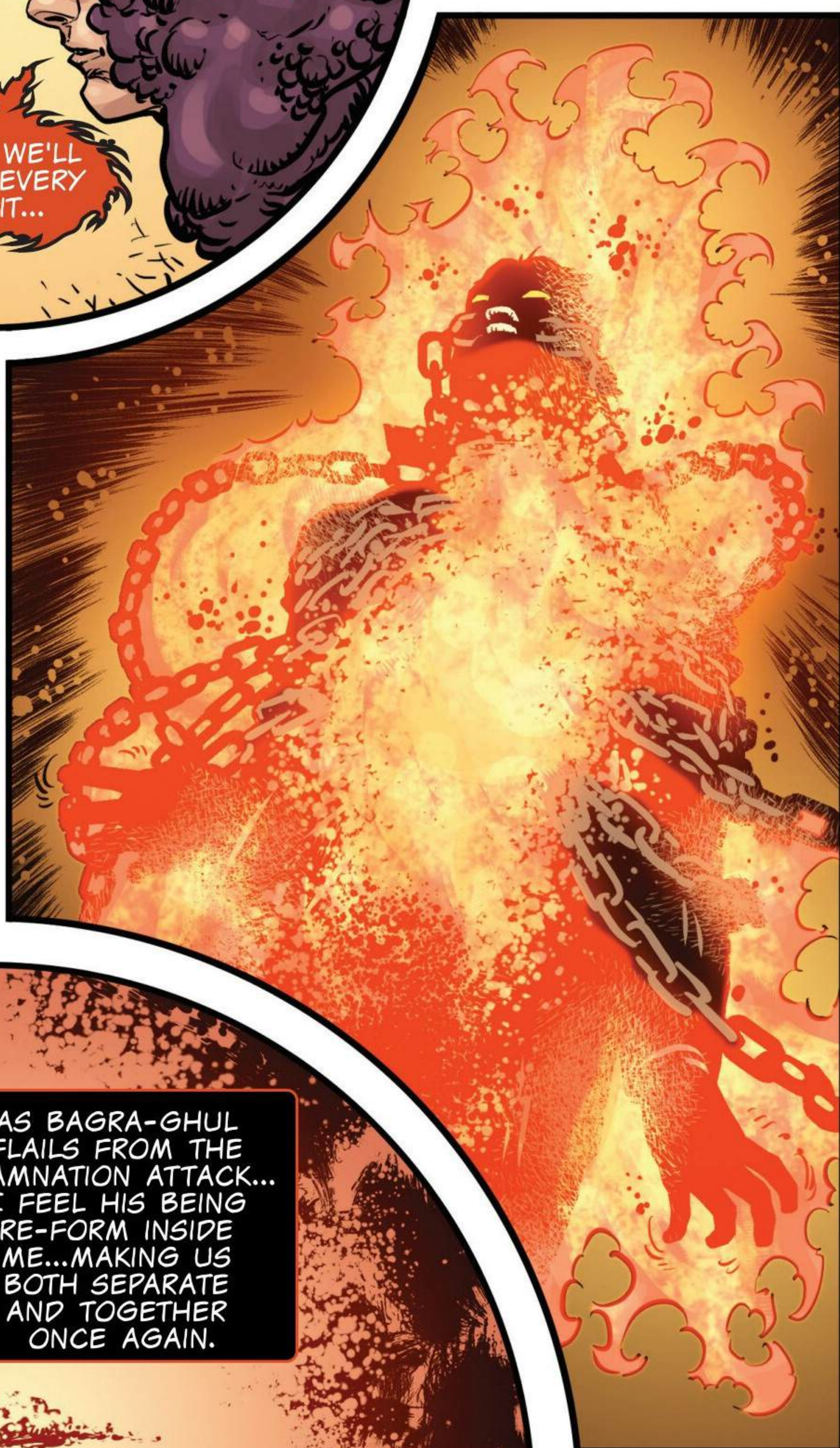


FWA-



BOOM





AS BAGRA-GHUL FLAILS FROM THE DAMNATION ATTACK... I FEEL HIS BEING RE-FORM INSIDE ME...MAKING US BOTH SEPARATE AND TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN.

THAT'S ME
SURVIVING
ANOTHER
DAY.

BUT MAYBE I'M
STARTING TO REALIZE
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN MERELY
SURVIVING...

...AND
LIVING.

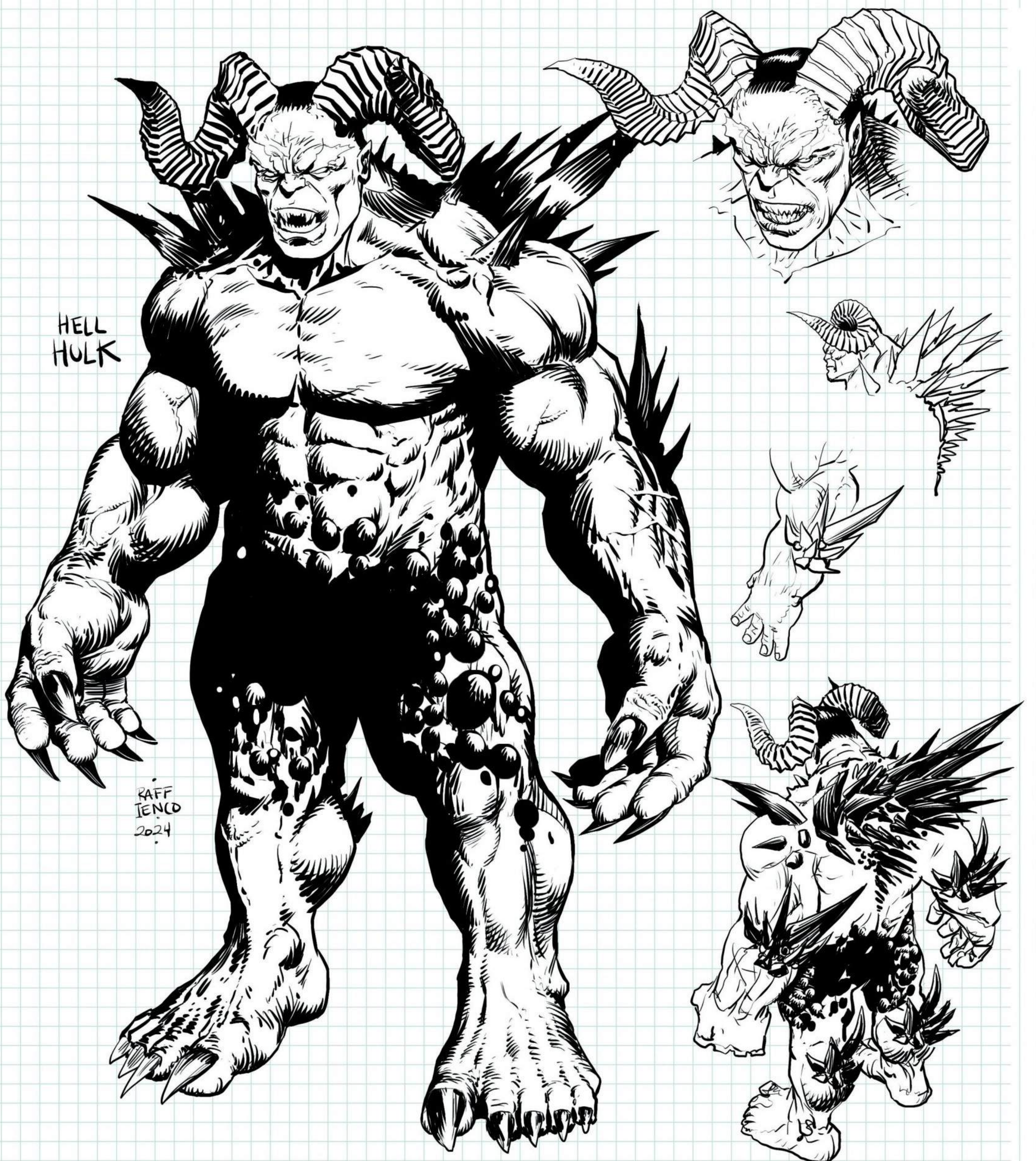
IT'S THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
SURROUNDING
YOURSELF WITH
THE PEOPLE WHO
WILL PUT YOU
THROUGH HELL...

...AND THE PEOPLE WHO
WILL GO THROUGH HELL
TO SUPPORT YOU.

I'M GOING
TO LEAN IN TO
THE LIVING...

...AS AKIHIRO...THE
HELLVERINE.

THE END.





#6 Variant by
CHRIS CAMPANA, JP MAYER & MORRY HOLLOWELL



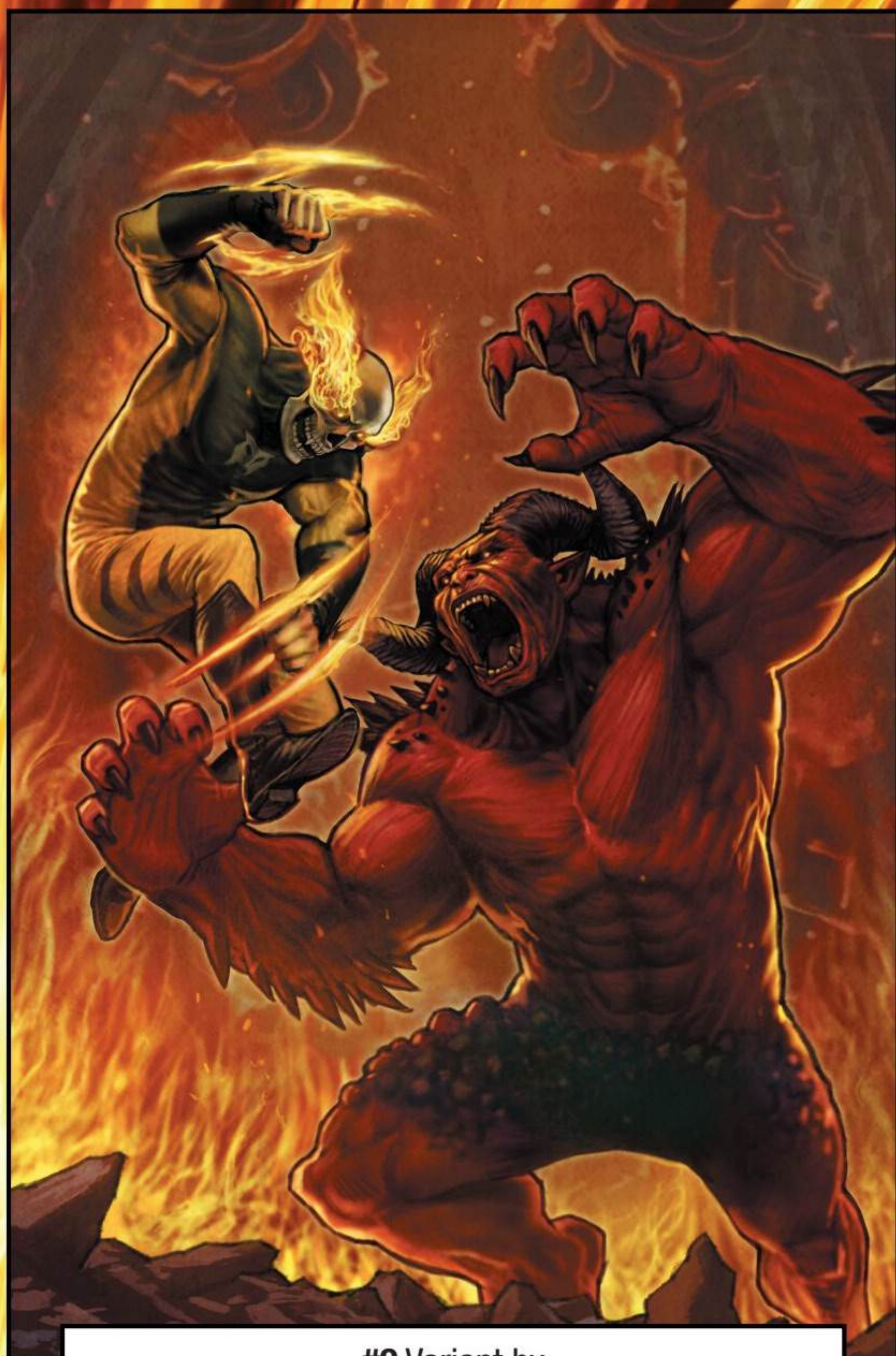
#7 Variant by
LUKE ROSS & NEERAJ MENON



#7 Variant by
EDWIN GALMON & ANDREW DALHOUSE



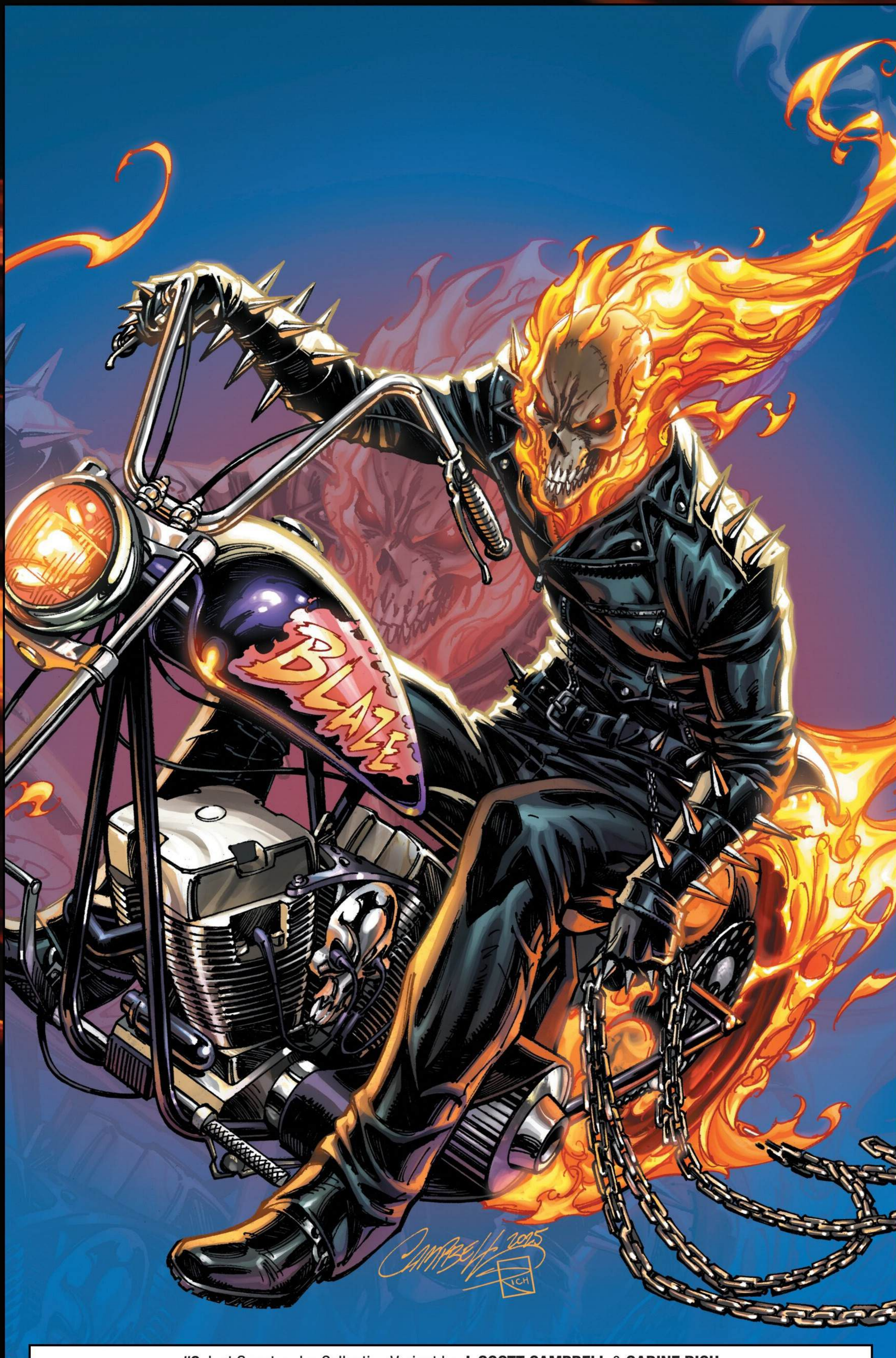
**#8 Variant by
JUSTIN MASON & RACHELLE ROSENBERG**



**#9 Variant by
STONEHOUSE**



**#9 Variant by
DUSTY PETERSON**

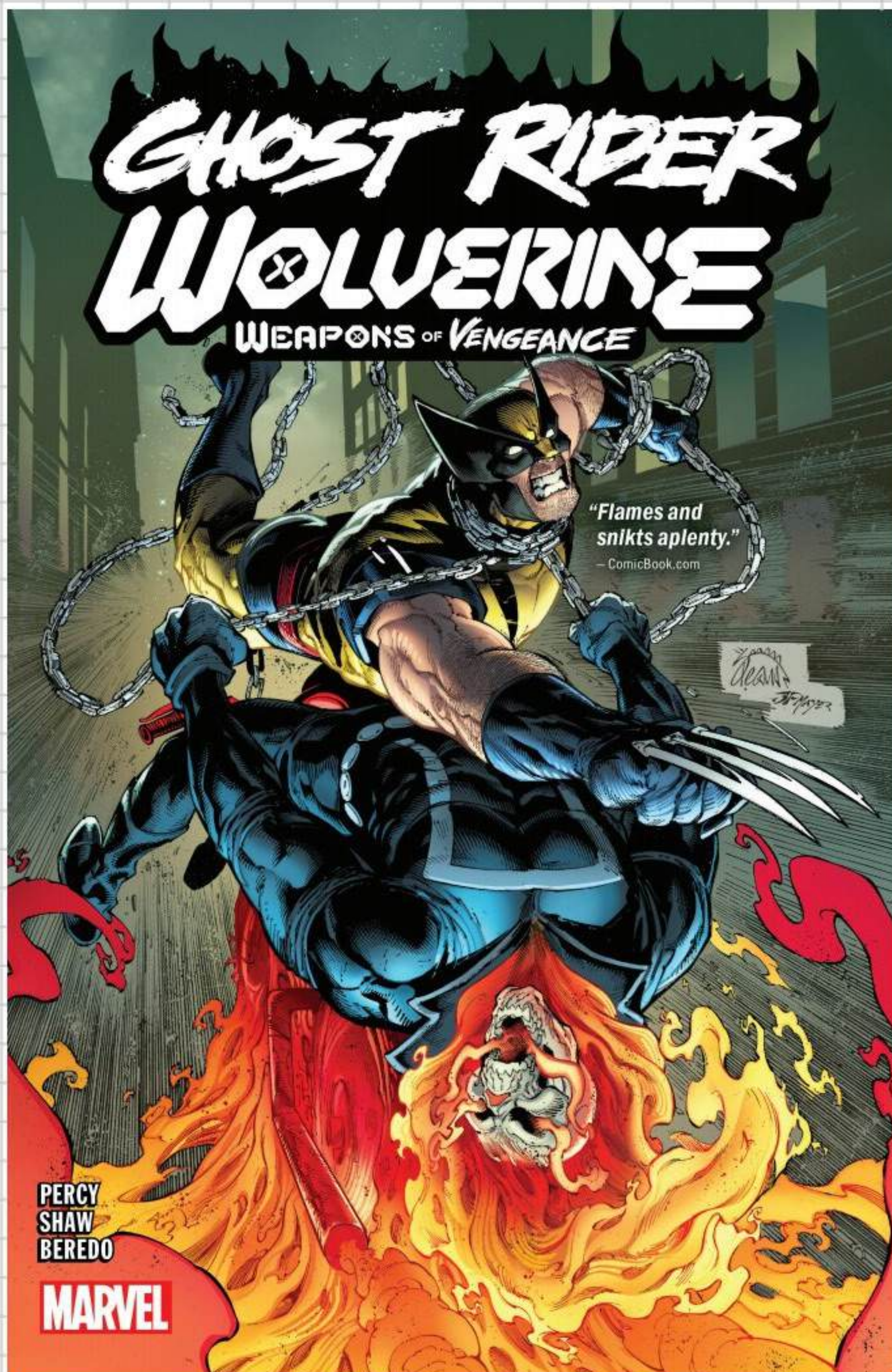




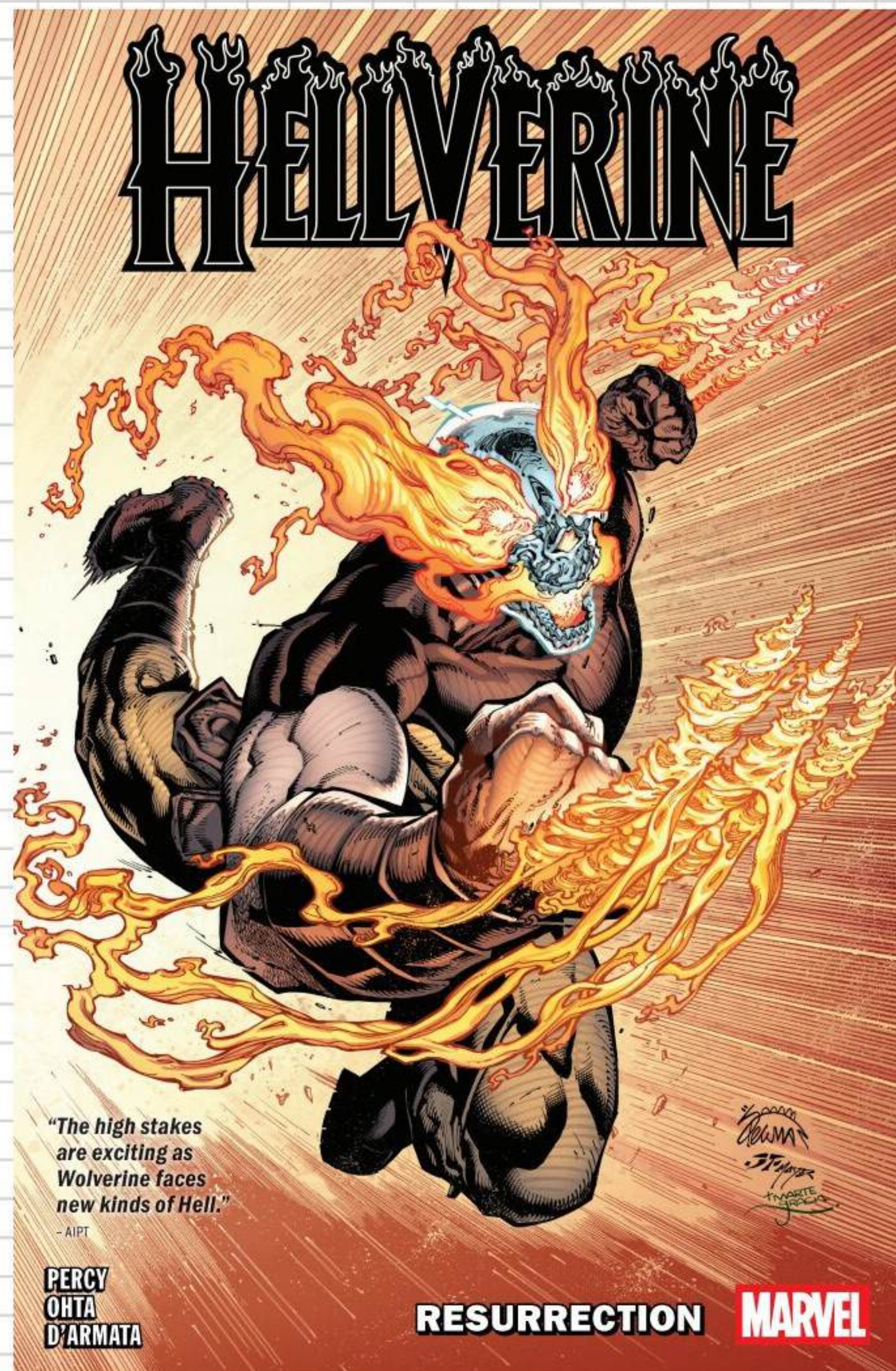
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